

2015-2016

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS

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 SEC 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 SEC competition as a whole, 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 is cited in the regulations under the appropriate topic heading.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CONFERENCE COMPETITION

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. It is the responsibility of each member institution to implement procedures to ensure compliance with this policy.

Institutional penalties against individuals who improperly enter the competition area must include, but are not limited to, expulsion from the facility, arrest for trespassing, and the loss of future ticket privileges. In addition to these penalties, violators who are students must be subject to institutional student disciplinary measures.

Each institution shall publicize this policy, as well as the penalties associated with violations, through appropriate means, such as ticket back statements, public address announcements, video/matrix announcements, facility signage, and other means available. In addition, each head coach shall publicly discourage spectators from entering the playing area at any time.

Penalties for Institutional Violations. For the safety of participants and spectators alike, the Commissioner may (in his or her sole discretion) impose the following penalties: 1st offense: an institutional fine of \$50,000; 2nd offense: an institutional fine of up to \$100,000; 3rd or subsequent offense: an institutional fine of up to \$250,000. The Commissioner may also impose additional penalties as he or she deems appropriate.

Amendments. The Commissioner's Regulations may be amended in the following manner:

Those 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.

Those regulations that are not part of the SEC Bylaws, but may have philosophical, financial, and/or competition format implications, may only be amended by majority vote of the Athletics Directors. Such amendments may be proposed by the Commissioner, coaches groups, Senior Woman Administrators, and Athletics Directors. Proposals from coaches of men's sports will be forwarded directly to the Athletics Directors. Proposals from coaches of women's sports will be sent first to the Senior Woman Administrators, then to the Athletics Directors with a report of action taken by the Senior Woman Administrators.

Those 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.

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. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 c, d, and e]

Artificial Noisemakers and Sound Systems (Team). Except as otherwise provided in SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 (Playing Conditions) 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.

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 SEC 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 SEC 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 SEC 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. **SEC Sportsmanship Awards.** Each institution may nominate one male and one female student-athlete for consideration based on criteria provided by the SEC office. The Athletics Directors will select one male and one female recipient from those nominated at the SEC Spring Meeting.
6. **SEC Academic Honor Roll.** The following criteria will be used to determine recipients of the SEC Academic Honor Roll award:
 - A. Any student-athlete who participates in a Southeastern Conference championship sport or a student-athlete who participates in a sport listed on his/her institution's NCAA Sports Sponsorship Form is eligible for nomination to the Academic Honor Roll.
 - B. The following criteria will be followed:
 - (1) A student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.00 or above for either the preceding academic year (two semesters or three quarters) or have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or above at the nominating institution.
 - (2) If a student-athlete attends summer school, his/her grade point average during the summer academic term must be included in the calculation used to determine eligibility for the Academic Honor Roll.
 - (3) Student-athletes eligible for the Honor Roll include those receiving an athletics scholarship, recipients of an athletics award (i.e., letter winner), and non-scholarship student-athletes who have been on a varsity team for two seasons.

- (4) Prior to being nominated, a student-athlete must have successfully completed 24 semester or 36 quarter hours of non-remedial academic credit toward a baccalaureate degree at the nominating institution.
- (5) The student-athlete must have been a member of a varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.
- (6) The SEC Academic Honor Roll shall be compiled and released following each sport's championship event, as follows:
 - a. Cross Country, football, volleyball, soccer – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the first week of February, based on the student-athletes' preceding fall, summer, and spring terms. [Revised: 11/18/15]
 - b. Basketball, equestrian, gymnastics, swimming and diving – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the third week of April, based on the student-athletes' preceding fall, summer, and spring terms.
 - c. Track and field, golf, tennis, softball, baseball – Honor Roll recipients shall be announced by the Conference office during the third week of June, based on the student-athletes' preceding spring, fall, and summer terms.
 - d. First year student-athletes – First year student-athletes in all sports may be named to the Honor Roll at the conclusion of their first full academic year in residence (spring, fall and summer terms) through an announcement issued by the Conference office during the second week of July.
7. **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 particular sport. Each vote is worth one point. The criteria for nominating a student-athlete for the Scholar-Athlete of the Year are as follows:
 - A. Nominee must be a starter or important reserve with legitimate athletic credentials.
 - B. Nominee must have participated in at least 50 percent of team's games for the nominating year.
 - C. Nominee must have at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average for his or her collegiate career.
 - 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.
8. **All-SEC Teams**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
9. **All-Freshman Teams**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
10. **Athletes of the Year**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
11. **Freshmen of the Year**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
12. **Coaches of the Year**. Criteria for selection are outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.
13. **Athletes of the Week**. The Conference Communications staff will select an "Athlete of the Week" from nominations submitted by the sports information offices of the member institutions.

14. **Freshmen of the Week.** The Conference office will select a “Freshman of the Week” from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information directors of the member institutions.
15. **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]

Conference Championships – Seeding. Criteria are outlined in the Commissioner’s Regulations for each sport.

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 SEC 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 SEC 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 Southeastern Conference member institutions 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 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.

Divisional Scheduling. [SEC Bylaw 17.1.9e]

Eligibility. [SEC Bylaws 14.10.1 and 30.22.1.3b] The SEC office will supply an eligibility list for review prior to the start of a Conference championship or tournament.

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. [SEC Bylaw 31.20, 31.21, 31.22, and 31.23] The method of distributing net receipts is specified in the SEC Bylaws. Host institutions shall file a financial report with the SEC office not later than 60 days after the event.

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.

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 staff liaison. 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. Each member institution must have the capability of determining when lightning strikes are within specified distances of the competition site for all outdoor events.

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.

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.

Additionally, the home institution shall notify the head referee/umpire when lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site.

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.

New Coaches Orientation. Upon initial employment at an SEC member institution, each head or assistant coach shall attend a New Coaches Orientation conducted at the SEC office. Attendance at a New Coaches Orientation session should occur as soon as possible following employment of a coach, but is required to occur not later than October following employment of each coach. A coach who fails to attend a New Coaches Orientation session within the prescribed time frame may not participate in any off-campus recruiting activities until the coach attends a New Coaches Orientation session. New Coaches Orientation sessions shall be conducted in May, July and October. A coach who discontinues employment within the SEC shall be required to attend New Coaches Orientation if four calendar years lapse between dates of employment at an SEC member institution.

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20] 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.

Penalties for Violations of Specified NCAA Bylaws. The Conference has established the following minimum penalties for violations of specified NCAA Bylaws. The minimum penalty shall be applied to each violation of the minimum penalty, and may be increased for multiple violations involving the same team or individual. Prior to application of the minimum penalty, the involved institution may request relief from the minimum penalty based on establishing the violation was clearly attributable to extenuating circumstances or due to erroneous information having been provided to the coaching staff despite efforts to adequately research the information. If an institution that commits a violation seeks relief from the minimum penalty and there is a reasonable basis for consideration of the relief request, the penalty is stayed pending the Commissioner's determination.

Contact with a prospect during either an evaluation or quiet period. (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 off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 30 days following the discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

Contact with a prospect during a dead period. (NCAA Bylaw 13.02.5.5)

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for one calendar year. Further telephone calls from any institutional staff member to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be limited to one telephone call per month.

Contact with a prospect prior to the permissible time period. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.1)

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 30 days following the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

Impermissible off-campus contacts with prospective student-athletes. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.2.1)

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation and shall not be permitted to make telephone contact with any prospective student-athlete for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 30 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. Further telephone calls from any institutional staff member to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for

the next 60 days following the first date for permissible phone calls. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

Telephone calls to prospects prior to the permissible time period. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.3.1)

If a coach telephones a prospective student-athlete prior to the first permissible time period, the involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to make telephone contact with any prospective student-athlete for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further telephone calls from any institutional staff member to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the next 60 days following the first date for permissible phone calls. If a coach or coaching staff telephones a prospective student-athlete twice within a period where it is otherwise permissible to call once, the coaching staff is prohibited from calling the involved prospective student-athlete for a two week period.

Impermissible contact with a prospect on the day of competition. (NCAA Bylaw 13.1.6.2)

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. The institution shall be prohibited for 30 days from visiting the educational institution or attending any contests involving a team on which the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation participates. Further telephone calls from any institutional staff member to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation.

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 off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 90 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

Provision of recruiting materials to a prospect prior to the permissible date. (NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1)

The institution shall be prohibited from providing additional recruiting materials (including questionnaires and general correspondence, but not including a camp brochure) to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation until 60 days following the first permissible date for distributing recruiting materials.

Provision of impermissible recruiting materials to a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.3)

Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 30 days following the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact. Further telephone calls from any institutional staff member to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited for the next 60 days following the first date for permissible phone calls.

Impermissible electronic transmissions (e.g., text message, instant message) sent to a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.4.1)

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to make telephone contact with any prospective student-athlete for the 14 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. The institution shall not be permitted to make telephone contact, send recruiting materials (per NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1), or send permissible electronic transmissions (per NCAA Bylaw 13.4.1.4) to the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation.

Provision of impermissible entertainment to a prospective student-athlete or a person associated with a prospective student-athlete. (NCAA Bylaws 13.6.7, 13.7.2 and 13.8)

The involved institutional staff member(s) shall not be permitted to participate in any off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 90 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact 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 off-campus recruiting for the 30 calendar days immediately following discovery of the violation. Further in-person contact (on or off campus) with the prospective student-athlete involved in the violation shall be prohibited until 90 days following discovery of the violation or the first permissible date for in-person off-campus contact, as deemed appropriate. The institution shall be permitted to have no more than one additional off-campus contact with the involved prospect.

Playing Conditions. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5] Policies regarding playing conditions are addressed in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport.

Playing Rules. [SEC Bylaw 17.30]

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.

Practice and Number of Contests. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section]

Professional Competition. [SEC Bylaws 30.22.1.6]

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

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

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

Sponsored Sports. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1] (See Supplement B of this section for a list of sports sponsored by each institution.)

Sports Committees. [SEC Bylaw 21.9]

Sportsmanship. [SEC Bylaw 10.5] Coaches and student-athletes of a member institution, as well as individuals employed by or associated with that institution, including alumni, fans, patrons and boosters, shall conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their behavior shall, at all times, reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that characterize participation in the collegiate setting. For intercollegiate athletics to promote the character development of participants, to enhance the integrity of higher education and to promote civility in society, coaches, student-athletes and all others associated with these athletics programs and events should adhere to such fundamental

values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation but also in the broad spectrum of activities affecting the athletics program.

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.

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).

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.

Squad Sizes. SEC squad size limitations are set forth in Supplement D.

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

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

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

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

2014-15 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

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

Men's & Women's Cross Country	1 team award for the Conference Champion	3 top place finishers for each event given medallions	7 first team All-SEC given to finishers 1-7 (plaque) 7 second team All-SEC given to finishers 8-14 (plaque) 7 All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Athlete of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	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) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	4 Athletes of the Month given to one athlete from each event (certificate)

<p>Football</p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion 2 team awards given for Divisional Champions (trophy)</p>	<p>1 Championship MVP given trophy</p>	<p>25 first team All-SEC (plaque) 25 second team All-SEC (plaque) 24 All-Freshman Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Offensive Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Special Teams Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Offensive Player of the Week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate) Special Teams Player of the week (certificate) Offensive Lineman of the week (certificate) Defensive Lineman of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>
<p>Men's and Women's Golf</p>	<p>1 team award for the Conference Champion</p>	<p>2 top finishers given trophy Each member of winning team receives medal</p>	<p>8 first team All-SEC (plaque) 8 second team All-SEC (plaque) 5 Male All-Freshman Team (certificate) 8 Female All-Freshman Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)</p>	<p>Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.</p>	<p>Athlete of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)</p>

Gymnastics	1 team award for the Conference Champion	3 top place finishers for each event given medallions	All-SEC team given to the student-athletes with top 2 scores (including ties) in each event and top 2 scores (including ties) in the all-around from each session of the SEC Championship. (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to the freshmen with the top score (including ties) in each event and top score (including ties) in the all-around from each session of the SEC Championship. (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Gymnasts of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	Gymnast of the Week (certificate) Event Specialist of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
Women's Soccer	1 team award for the Conference Champion 1 team award (pyramid) for the Conference Tournament Champion	11 All-Tournament Team (trophy) 1 Tournament MVP (trophy)	11 first team All-SEC (plaque) 11 second team All-SEC (plaque) 11 All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Offensive Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	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 (pyramid) for the Conference Tournament Champion	11 All-Tournament Team (trophy) 1 Tournament MVP (trophy)	12 first team All-SEC (plaque) 12 second team All-SEC (plaque) 12 All-Freshman Team (certificate) 9 All Defensive Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Pitcher of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy)	Same criteria for all sports. Certificates are provided by compliance.	Player of the week (certificate) Pitcher of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)

				Community Service Team (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 (plaque) Second team All-SEC given to the second and third-place finishers in each event (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event (certificate)	Swimming Coach of the Year (trophy) Diving Coach of the Year (trophy) Swimmer of the Year (trophy) Diver of the Year (trophy) Freshman Swimmer of the Year (trophy) Freshman Diver of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	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 (pyramid) for the Conference Tournament Champion.	6 All-Tournament Team (trophy). 1 Tournament MVP (trophy).	12 first team All-SEC (plaque) 12 second team All-SEC (plaque) 6 All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	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	First team All-SEC given to winner in each event (plaque) Second team All-SEC given to the second and third-place finishers in each event (plaque)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Runner of the Year (trophy)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	Track Athlete of the week (certificate) Field Athlete of the week (certificate)

			All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event, excluding relays (certificate)	Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Freshman Runner of the Year (trophy) Freshman Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy)		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 (plaque) Second team All-SEC given to the second and third-place finishers in each event (plaque) All-Freshman Team given to top Freshman finisher in each event, excluding relays (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Runner of the Year (trophy) Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Freshman Runner of the Year (trophy) Freshman Field Event Athlete of the Year (trophy) Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	Track Athlete of the week (certificate) Field Athlete of the week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
Volleyball	1 team award for the Conference Champion	N/A	18 All-SEC (plaque) 7 All-Freshman Team (certificate)	Coach of the Year (trophy) Player of the Year (trophy) Defensive Player of the Year (trophy) Freshman of the Year (trophy)	Same criteria for all sports Certificates are provided by compliance.	Player of the week (certificate) Offensive Player of the week (certificate) Defensive Player of the week (certificate)

				Scholar Athlete of the Year (trophy) Community Service Team (certificate)		Setter of the Week (certificate) Freshman of the week (certificate)
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2014-2015 INSTITUTIONALLY SPONSORED VARSITY SPORTS

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

* Denotes varsity sports not sponsored by the Conference

SUPPLEMENT C

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP SITES BY SPORT (2014-2027)

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
BASEBALL	Hoover, AL	Hoover, AL											
MEN'S BASKETBALL	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	St. Louis, MO	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Tampa, FL	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN	Nashville, TN		
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	Little Rock, AR	Jacksonville, FL	TBD	Nashville, TN				Nashville, TN				Nashville, TN	
CROSS COUNTRY	Alabama	Texas A&M	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Missouri	Ole Miss	South Carolina	MSU	Tennessee	Texas A&M
EQUESTRIAN	Texas A&M	Georgia	Auburn										
FOOTBALL	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta, GA											
MEN'S GOLF	Sea Island Golf Club St. Simons Island, GA	Sea Island Golf Club St. Simons Island, GA	Sea Island Golf Club St. Simons Island, GA										
WOMEN'S GOLF	Greystone Golf & Country Club Birmingham, AL	Greystone Golf & Country Club Birmingham, AL											
GYMNASTICS	Duluth, GA	N. Little Rock, AR	Jacksonville, FL	St. Louis, MO									
SOCCER	Orange Beach, AL	Orange Beach, AL	Orange Beach, AL	Orange Beach, AL	Orange Beach, AL	Orange Beach, AL							
SOFTBALL	LSU	MSU	Tennessee	Missouri	Texas A&M	Alabama	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Missouri
SWIMMING/ DIVING	Auburn	Missouri	Tennessee	Texas A&M	Georgia								
MEN'S TENNIS	Texas A&M	South Carolina	Tennessee	Alabama	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Ole Miss	South Carolina	MSU
WOMEN'S TENNIS	South Carolina	LSU	Vanderbilt	Tennessee	Texas A&M	Alabama	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU	Missouri
INDOOR T/F	Kentucky	Arkansas	Vanderbilt	Texas A&M									
OUTDOOR T/F	MSU	Alabama	South Carolina	Vanderbilt	Tennessee	Texas A&M	Ole Miss	Florida	Arkansas	Georgia	Auburn	Kentucky	LSU
VOLLEYBALL	Conference Tournament Not Conducted												

SEC Squad Size Policies

Sport	In all sports other than football, the home team shall have the ability to determine (under NCAA Bylaws) pre-game and post-game expenses provided to student-athletes permitted to dress, but not participate in a contest.–The home and visiting squad size limits apply only to SEC-sponsored competition, rather than applying to any competition in which two SEC teams participate.–SEC squad size limitations are not applicable to NCAA Championship events.	SEC Championship Squad Size Limits
Baseball	<p>The home team may dress 35 eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a series. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes. The 27 participating student-athletes for both the home and visiting team must be declared prior to the first game of a Conference series and may not be changed during the course of the series.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.2.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.2.5</p>	<p>Only 27 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but 35 eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>
Basketball	<p>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.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.3.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.3.5</p>	<p>Only 15 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>
Cross Country	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 12 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 12 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.5.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.5.5</p>	<p>10 in men’s cross country 12 in women’s cross country</p>
Equestrian	<p>All eligible student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. There is no travel squad size limit.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.6.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.6.5</p>	<p>Only 28 student-athletes (20 competitors and eight non-competing alternates) will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to the SEC Championship event.</p>
Football	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. (The non-participating student-athletes shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Non-participating student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals, overnight lodging or additional game tickets, but may receive a post-game meal provided the post-game meal is served at the stadium. No cash stipend may be provided to non-participating student-athletes for post-game meals away from the stadium.) The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 70 eligible student-athletes. The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 70 eligible student-athletes for both participating teams. The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.9.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.9.5</p>	<p>85</p>
Golf	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 6 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 6 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.10.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.10.5</p>	<p>6</p>
Gymnastics	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 18 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 18 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.11.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.11.5</p>	<p>Only 18 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests.</p>

Soccer	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.19.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.19.5</p>	<p>Only 24 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in each Championship contest but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Institutions must designate 24 student-athletes who will participate in a specific Championship contest prior to such contest. Non-participating eligible student-athletes may access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests but may not dress out.</p>
Softball	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 22 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 22 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.20.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.20.5</p>	<p>Only 22 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.</p>
Swimming	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>For invitational meets, the host shall determine squad size.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.21.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.21.5</p>	<p>22 competitors with a maximum of 19 swimmers.</p>
Tennis	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 8 student-athletes in men's tennis (10 in women's tennis) may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 8 eligible student-athletes in men's tennis (10 in women's tennis).</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.22.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.22.5</p>	<p>10</p>
Track – Indoor	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.5</p>	<p>27</p>
Track – Outdoor	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 30 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 30 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.5</p>	<p>30</p>
Volleyball	<p>The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 17 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 17 eligible student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.6.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.7</p>	<p>Only 17 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.</p>

BASEBALL

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for baseball: Sport Administrator – Herb Vincent; Communications – Ben Beaty/Chuck Dunlap; Officiating – Paul Guillie/Sylvia Hagan.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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.

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, he 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 SEC 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 select 12 players for the first team and 12 for second team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). 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.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. The coaches select 12 players for the team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop (or four infielders if specific infield positions do not have a nominee), catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). The student-athlete with the most votes at each position will be named to the All-Freshman Team
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC 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 they vote for must be listed on their All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point.
7. **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.

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

Barrel Compression Testing. The regular season and the Conference tournament will be governed by a Barrel Compression Testing Protocol, which will be maintained at the Conference office.

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. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held at the SEC Office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with South Carolina serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Tennessee (2016-2017), Texas A&M (2017-2018), and Vanderbilt (2018-2019). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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. The team in each division with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared division champions. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared division co-champions and/or Conference co-champions. Final division standings will be determined by the won-loss percentage in regular-season Conference competitions.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference 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.

Contests - Maximum. There shall be no more than 56 scheduled games during the traditional season, excluding play-off games in the Conference tournament and the NCAA Tournament, but including all other games played at both varsity and junior-varsity levels. The teams participating in the Conference tournament may have the option of scheduling additional games (within the NCAA limits and within the playing and practice session) prior to the NCAA regional play-offs, provided they are not scheduled on days when classes or final examinations are regularly scheduled (except that a game may be scheduled after all the institution's regularly scheduled classes and final examinations have been completed).

Departure Time. 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.

Prior to the start of the regular season schedule, the visiting team shall notify the proper game management official (who will notify the umpire in chief) at the competition site and the Conference office of the visiting team's designated departure time from the competition site following the final game of each Conference series. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game may start no later than 1 p.m. local time unless dictated by television. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures will be used:

1. No half-inning shall start with less than 15 minutes remaining until the designated departure time.

2. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest and all averages shall count in the final playing record.
3. The contest will be considered a regulation tie game if it meets the conditions set forth in NCAA Rule 5.10 and all averages shall count in the final playing record.
4. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation game status per NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest shall be considered "No Game" (NCAA Rule 5.12).
5. Teams shall not stay over Sunday night, in order not to miss classes on Monday. A school may request a waiver from the Conference office in a situation when school is out of session.

In no case shall the departure time of umpires be a factor in completing games.

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 SEC 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 Equipment. The use of telephones, cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, etc., is permitted for two-way communication between a team's dugout/bench and bullpen. Any other form of communication and any other communication between other areas shall not be allowed.

Equipment. 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 SEC baseball is an SEC stamped baseball that is consistent with the specifications used for NCAA Championship competition.

Game Clock. The SEC follows the NCAA Game Clock protocol, with the exception that the clock will be located on the outfield wall in each SEC stadium. In addition, thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each game, the individual responsible for the operation of the game clock must meet with the umpiring crew to review the protocol. Emphasis should be placed on in-game communication (signals, etc.) from the field to the individual operating the clock.

Inclement Weather. The inclement weather policy is as follows:

FOR 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. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
 - (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game on Saturday, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game must start at its published start

time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the Sunday regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.

B. For games televised on the SEC Network

- (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network 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.
- (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game on the SEC Network 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.
- (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.

4. Length of Games

- A. All games played on Friday and Saturday should be scheduled for nine innings. If a postponed game is resumed on Sunday, the regularly scheduled game shall be seven innings.
- B. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday games, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two seven-inning 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 seven-inning game.
- C. 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.
- D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of 10 or more runs after seven innings of play (NCAA Rule 5.8).

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, but no later than 4:00 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game. (See Departure Time of this section.)
- C. 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

- 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 p.m. deadline for the start of a game and a 6:00 p.m. deadline for the resumption of the game.

7. Authority to Play Doubleheaders

- A. If weather forecasts on Friday or Saturday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Sunday, the home team with approval of the visiting team may request permission from the Conference office to play a doubleheader on Saturday.
- B. Approval of a prospective Saturday doubleheader may be given no earlier than Saturday morning and shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on the final day of the series. This does not apply for possible inclement weather on Friday or Saturday of a weekend series.

FOR 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. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
 - (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Friday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning one hour prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - B. For games televised on the SEC Network
 - (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Friday game on the SEC Network 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.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network 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.

- (3) A postponed or regularly scheduled game may begin or end on the SEC Network Alternate Channel or on SEC Network+.

4. Length of Games

- A. All games played on Thursday and Friday should be scheduled for nine innings. If a postponed game is resumed on Saturday, the regularly scheduled game shall be seven innings.
- B. If weather prevents playing both the Thursday and Friday games, or if the Friday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two seven-inning games on Saturday. If a Thursday game is postponed and no games are played on Friday, the postponed game shall be resumed on Saturday, followed by a seven-inning game.
- C. 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.
- D. Once a postponed game is resumed, the game shall be complete if one team has a lead of 10 or more runs after seven innings of play (NCAA Rule 5.8).

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, however, teams can stay over until Sunday to get the game completed on Saturday.
- C. In the event of Saturday doubleheaders, games will be seven innings each.

6. Authority to Play Doubleheaders

- A. If weather forecasts on Thursday or Friday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Saturday, the home team with approval of the visiting team may request permission from the Conference office to play a doubleheader on Friday.
- B. Approval of a prospective Friday doubleheader may be given no earlier than Friday morning and shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on the final day of the series. This does not apply for possible inclement weather on Thursday or Friday of a weekend series.

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.

C. A 10 minute warm-up period may be granted following this 30-minute suspension.

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. In the event that 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 anytime 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 SEC 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 SEC 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 contests. The Conference office will oversee the scheduling of assignments for all home non-conference games through a regional coordinator selected by each institution. [Note: the Conference office will assign umpires for all home Conference and non-conference contests effective in 2017 - Revised 8/18/15]

1. Each institution will 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. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed to the Conference office only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
4. Films, videotapes, and DVD's 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 precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
6. The list of game officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets before a game.
7. 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 home team shall be responsible for the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials for non-conference home games. Officials for non-conference games assigned through a local assignor or association as determined by individual institutions WILL BE PROCESSED AND PAID BY THE HOME INSTITUTION. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.
8. 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.

Practice.

1. **Championship Segment.** Practice may begin on February 1.
2. **Non-Championship Segment.** There shall be only intra-squad games during the fall season, except that a maximum of ten practice days against outside competition (not to exceed 20 games) is permitted within the nontraditional season, provided all practice games against outside competition are played on the home campus of the SEC institution. All games played in non-traditional segment shall count within the 56 maximum game limit.
3. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to notify the host institution prior to the start of a series to arrange for a practice opportunity on days preceding a series. The host institution will determine if weather and/or field conditions are acceptable and the visiting team may be required to assist in the field preparation (e.g., removal or placement of the tarp).

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

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

1. Each institution will play a 30-game Conference schedule. This schedule will include 3-game series with all five division members each year and five non-division members on a two-year rotation basis. The dates and sites for the 30-game Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Each game shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played at least nine innings except when inclement weather or travel constraints are taken into account. There is no 10-run rule in effect for Conference vs. Conference games. In non-conference games, by mutual consent of both head coaches, a game may be stopped only after seven innings if a team is ahead by at least 10 runs.
3. 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. One series during the second weekend of the Conference season will be a Thursday-Saturday series. Two series per weekend beginning on the third weekend of the Conference season will be a Thursday-Saturday series. All inclement weather and curfew policies will remain for these series with the exception of the following:
 - A. On Saturday (get-away day), all curfew times will be waived in order to get the game in on Saturday. No games will be continued to Sunday, however, teams can stay over until Sunday to get game completed on Saturday.
 - B. On Saturday, game start times may be set for evening based on request from SEC and institutional television partners.
 - C. In the event of Saturday doubleheaders, these will continue to be seven innings each.
4. A team may not stay over to Monday to start or complete a Conference game or series.
5. Conference doubleheaders may only be played on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday doubleheaders shall be seven inning games and shall only be played if games on Friday and/or Saturday are rained out.
6. For regular season contests scheduled by the Southeastern 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.
7. Non-Conference games, which are not played because of inclement weather, may be rescheduled by the member institution, or a different non-Conference opponent may be scheduled, provided all NCAA minimum scheduling requirements are met.
8. Non-Conference games may be scheduled to replace Conference games not played due to inclement weather, provided all NCAA minimum scheduling requirements are met. These games shall not count as Conference games in league standings.

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

Starting Times. The home team shall establish the starting time for all Conference games. Friday games shall start no earlier than 6 p.m. local time. Sunday games shall start no later than 2 p.m. local time unless dictated by television.

If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game shall start no later than 1 p.m. local time unless dictated by television.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The home team may dress 35 eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a series. The participating squad for the series must be declared prior to the first series game and shall not be changed during the course of the series. The visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 27 eligible student-athletes and may only dress 27 eligible student-athletes in uniform. No other student-athletes in uniform will be allowed on the playing field within two hours prior to the start of the game. Further, the number of coaches dressed out on the playing field and/or in the dugout area must conform to NCAA regulations. Coaches shall exchange eligibility rosters before the start of a series. There may be no additions to the list once the rosters have been exchanged. The umpire crew chief will receive a copy of each team's list.

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 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 that 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 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 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.
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 that 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 will be forfeited. In the event that a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.

5. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Southeastern Conference Tournament only.

Tickets. The home team shall provide up to 75 complimentary tickets to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series. 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.

Video Boards/Replays. Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except as set forth in NCAA Baseball Rules (See Appendix B - Rules for Scoreboards, Video and Audio). The time during which permissible replays may be shown is from the end of a play until the next batter enters the dirt area around home plate. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a middle-of-inning or end-of-inning break. In no circumstances will the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an umpire 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 stadium video board.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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. Future dates are:

2016	May 24-29	Hoover, AL (Hoover Metropolitan Stadium)
2017	May 23-28	TBD
2018	May 22-27	TBD

Format. There will be a 12-team, Conference tournament, which includes the two top teams from each division (as determined by winning percentage) and the next ten teams from either division with the best winning percentage in Conference play at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season. The top four seeds get opening round byes. Games played Tuesday are single elimination, while games Wednesday through Friday shall be double elimination. The remaining four teams following Friday's play (fourth round) shall play a single-elimination format. The tournament shall begin on Tuesday and conclude with a single championship game on Sunday. The Conference tournament shall be used to determine the automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament.

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 does not apply to the championship game.

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.

Seeding. The two division champions shall be automatically seeded number one and number two based on winning percentage in Conference competition. The remaining teams shall be seeded numbers three through twelve based on winning percentage without regard to division. Ties will be broken in the following manner:

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. If two-teams are divisional opponents:
 - (1) Won-lost percentage within their division (over the 15-game SEC division schedule).
 - (2) Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the No. 1 team in their division (and proceeding through the No. 7 team, if necessary).
 - C. If two teams are not divisional opponents:
 - (1) Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed using common opponents only (and proceeding through the No. 12 seed, if necessary).

(2) 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 three teams are common opponents: Total won-lost percentage of games played among the tied teams.
 - B. Won-lost percentage of the tied teams versus the No. 1 seed and proceeding through the No. 12 seed, if necessary, using common opponents only.
 - C. If three or more teams still are tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw.

Team Expenses and Allowances. Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 30 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.

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 SEC institution. The institution on-site may purchase general admission tickets as it advances in the tournament.

Uniforms. Only eligible student-athletes and members of the baseball coaching staff (in accordance with NCAA Bylaws 11.01.5, 11.01.6 and 11.7.6) may wear a team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contests. Non-coaching staff, managers, operations personnel and others not designated as a coach under NCAA rules shall not wear the team uniform prior to, during or following conference and non-conference baseball contests.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's basketball: Sport Administrator – Mark Whitworth; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Jake Bell/Sylvia Hagan.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Artificial Noisemakers. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] 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.

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.

The use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and the play of bands shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, post-game and timeouts. There shall be no use of the above-mentioned devices/instruments during a free-throw, throw-in or live ball situation. The use of physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public address systems by the cheerleaders), except as noted above, is prohibited in SEC 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. SEC 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. SEC 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. SEC 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. SEC 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. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
6. **Defensive Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
7. **Sixth Man of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office. Players must have started 1/3 or less of team's SEC games to be eligible.

8. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will only participate in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
9. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Ball Crews. Ball crews shall be limited to six individuals (three per basket). Ball crew members must be a minimum age of 10. NCAA Rules 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.

Bench Restrictions. Team benches shall consist of 22 seats. A maximum of five seats may be placed in a second row behind the bench (if room is available); however, these seats must count toward the overall total of 22. All game personnel (i.e., coaches, players, managers, trainers, etc.) must sit on the bench. 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.

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. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in conjunction with the Conference Spring Meeting and the October meeting of the head coaches at the SEC Office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Arkansas serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Auburn (2016-2017), Florida (2017-2018), and Georgia (2018-2019). 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.

Conference Championship/Tournament. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

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

Crowd Control. The 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. 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.

The game management director is responsible for the following:

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 are able to leave quickly.

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.

Equipment. 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 and warm-ups that are the same as the ball used for the game.

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

LED Lights. Member institutions shall utilize LED light strips on backboards to indicate to referees, coaches, players and fans when the end of period horn sounds.

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. It is required that both teams and all coaches be on the court for the anthem. The anthem shall be held with 0:00 on the pre-game clock.

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion will be the Conference’s automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office shall assign officials for all home games and any games specified in contractual agreements with SEC institutions. No coach, trainer, player or member of the team’s official party shall talk to game officials prior to, during or after a game concerning any matter related to the game, except for discussions related to NCAA rules. There shall be no communication of any sort between the coaches and officials at halftime. Under no circumstance shall a coach enter the officials’ locker room. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited [SEC Bylaw 10.5.4]. Comments on officiating are to be directed to the Conference office only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.

Audio/video materials may not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game video to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches’ radio and/or television shows.

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

Sports information directors and coaches should make no references to officiating in institutional press releases.

The list of officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets before a game. The names of the officials shall not be announced during pregame public address introductions.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Southeastern Conference games:

1. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
 - A. 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;
 - B. 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
 - C. 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 **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.
2. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested:
 - A. When male and female officials are assigned, two dressing rooms should be provided if possible;
 - B. 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
 - C. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items:
 - (1) Towels and soap;
 - (2) Chairs and a table;
 - (3) Dry erase board and markers;
 - (4) Television;
 - (5) Soft drinks, isotonic beverages and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups;
 - (6) Sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.
3. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any 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.
4. 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.

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 Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.

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.

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, are to be made 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.

Radio and Television Timeouts.

1. **Radio.** In non-televised games, four radio timeouts are permitted during each half (at the first dead ball after the 16-, 12-, 8- and 4- minute marks). These timeouts will be 1 minute 45 seconds (1:45) in duration. Each team will have four 30-second timeouts and one 60-second timeout. Each team may carry over three 30-second timeouts to the second half. The first 30-second timeout called in the second half by either team will become a full timeout (1:45). In each overtime period, each team will carry over the timeouts it possesses at the end of regulation and earn an additional 30-second timeout. Please see the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules for additional information about the number of timeouts allotted per game.
2. **Television.** All SEC games are televised under the current television agreement. Television timeouts may be called during televised contests at intervals designated in the contract with the respective television entities. These timeouts will be 2 minutes and 15 seconds (2:15) in duration. The same team timeout policies outlined in subsection 1 above will apply in televised games. Please see the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules for additional information about number of timeouts allotted per game.

Regular-Season Competition/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). Permanent opponents are set forth in Supplement B. 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). Each institution shall submit its non-conference schedule for review and approval by the Conference office. [Revised 12/15/15]

Rim Testing. Each member institution shall conduct rim testing on its basketball goal rims as outlined in the NCAA Men's and 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 Video Exchange. The following policies have been adopted for preseason, regular-season and post-season competition:

1. The SEC operates with an open exchange policy in regards to the exchange of game video. Therefore, all schools must provide video of all games to the other SEC programs.
2. All SEC Men's Basketball 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. SEC 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 SEC 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 SEC liaison 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 as follows:

HD-MPEG4 file (ending in .mp4 extension) 3 megabits per second up to a maximum of 8 mbps.

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.

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 media teleconference once a week during the basketball season. The exact time will be determined by mutual agreement between the SEC office and the head

coach. Each head coach will also participate in a summer teleconference on the first Monday following the NBA Draft.

Television. [SEC Bylaw 31.20.1]

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

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

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

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

Procedure for stoppage for an official review:

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

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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 Restrictions. Each team bench will consist of 22 seats and will be limited to the use of 22 individuals as follows: players, coaches, trainers, managers, statistician and/or team physician or designated team members. Bench assignments will be based on seeding.

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. Future dates and sites for the tournament are:

2016	March 9-13	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2017	March 8-12	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2018	March 7-11	St. Louis, MO (Scottrade Center)
2019	March 13-17	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)

2020	March 11-15	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2021	March 10-14	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2022	March 9-13	Tampa, FL (Amalie Avenue)
2023	March 8-12	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2024	March 13-17	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)
2025	March 12-16	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)

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

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

Seeding. Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 14 in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament bracket based upon the final regular season Conference standings. Teams that finished No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive first and second-round byes and teams that finish No. 5 through No. 10 will receive first-round byes in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament.

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

For the purpose of seeding, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 11 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, that team will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings BEFORE being seeded last.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] Only 15 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.

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 May 1 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 100 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall purchase 150 additional tickets for such game.

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.

SEC MEN'S BASKETBALL
Conference Scheduling Parameters

- A maximum of two (2) consecutive road games (*not separated by an open date*)
- A minimum of three (3) playing dates between opponents
- Two (2) of the first four (4) games must be at home
- Two (2) of the last four (4) games must be at home
- One (1) of the first two (2) games must be at home
- One (1) of the last two (2) games must be at home
- Each team shall play a minimum of four (4) home weekend games (*Saturday or Sunday*) ... *One (1) of these dates must be during the last three (3) football recruiting weekends in January.*
- Each team shall play a minimum of three (3) home weeknight games (*Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday*)
- Each team shall play a maximum of two (2) Sunday games (*provided that the next game is not scheduled for the following Tuesday*)
- Each team shall play at least one (1) Thursday game during every two-year cycle. No team may play more than two (2) Thursday games per year. Additionally, no team will be required to play on the road Thursday and Saturday, and no team will be required to play Thursday-Saturday-Tuesday more than once each season.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL
PERMANENT OPPONENTS**

INSTITUTION	PERMANENT #1	PERMANENT #2	PERMANENT #3
Alabama	Auburn	Miss. State	LSU
Arkansas	Missouri	Texas A&M	LSU
Auburn	Alabama	Ole Miss	Georgia
Florida	Kentucky	Georgia	Vanderbilt
Georgia	South Carolina	Florida	Auburn
Kentucky	Florida	Tennessee	Vanderbilt
LSU	Texas A&M	Alabama	Arkansas
Ole Miss	Miss. State	Auburn	Missouri
Mississippi State	Ole Miss	Alabama	South Carolina
Missouri	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Ole Miss
South Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Miss. State
Tennessee	Vanderbilt	Kentucky	South Carolina
Texas A&M	LSU	Arkansas	Missouri
Vanderbilt	Tennessee	Kentucky	Florida

Note: Approved by Athletic Directors 12.16.14

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's basketball: Sport Administrator – Leslie Claybrook; Communications – Tammy Wilson; Officiating – Sally Bell/Sylvia Hagan.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Artificial Noisemakers. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 c and e]

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.

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.

The use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and the play of bands shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, post-game, dead ball situations, and timeouts. There shall be no use of the above-mentioned devices/instruments during a free-throw, throw-in or live ball situation. The use of physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or public address systems by the cheerleaders), except as noted above, is prohibited in SEC basketball arenas. [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 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. Following a nomination process, the coaches shall vote for eight players for first team and eight for the second team. Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The top eight will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next eight 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 eight 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. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Ball Crews. Ball crews shall be limited to six individuals (three per basket). Ball crew members must be a minimum age of 10 and a maximum age of 15. NCAA Rules 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.

Bench Restrictions. Team benches shall consist of 22 seats. A maximum of five seats may be placed in a second row behind the bench (if room is available); however, these seats must count in the overall total of 22. All game personnel (i.e., coaches, players, managers, trainers, etc.) must sit on the bench. 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.

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. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in conjunction with the SEC Spring Meeting in Destin, Florida and the fall meeting held in Birmingham, Alabama.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be a two-year rotation Auburn serving as the chair for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Georgia (2016-2017 and 2017-2018) and Kentucky (2018-2019 and 2019-2020). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended an annual coaches meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Championship/Tournament [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition will be declared the Conference champion. 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.

Crowd Control. The 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. 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, if needed. The game manager 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.

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.

Equipment. Basketballs must meet specifications contained in the NCAA Women's Basketball Rules (1.16). 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.

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

LED Lights. Member institutions are required to have LED lights around the backboards to indicate to officials, coaches, players, and fans the end of the period.

Media Days. Each head coach shall attend the annual SEC Basketball Media Days 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. It is required that both teams and all coaches be on the court for the anthem. The anthem shall be held with 0:00 on the pre-game clock.

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

Officials. [SEC Bylaws 30.20.1 and 10.5.4] The Conference office shall assign officials for all home contests, including exhibitions and non-conference games. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating is located on www.spotfoul.com. Please contact Sylvia Hagan with questions related to access to the website or administrative aspects of officials (e.g., assignments, payment information, etc).

Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is strictly prohibited. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating, game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed only to the Conference office. 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.

Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches, or institutional personnel are prohibited. The list of game officials assigned to a game should not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets.

No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows. Audio/video materials 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).

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at all home games:

1. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:

- A. A person should meet officials at the entrance gate 90 minutes prior to tip-off and escort them to the officials' dressing room.
 - B. 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.
 - C. 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 **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.
2. The officials dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as suggested below:
- A. When male and female officials are assigned, two separate dressing rooms must be provided;
 - B. 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
 - C. The officials' dressing room should be set up with the following items:
 - (1) Towels and soap;
 - (2) Chairs and a table;
 - (3) Soft drinks and water (in a cooler of ice) and cups; and
 - (4) Sandwiches, fruit, or light snack after the game.
3. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any 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.
4. Absolutely no one shall be allowed access to the officials' dressing room without the permission of the SEC except (1) the officials assigned to the game, (2) the event manager and (3) Southeastern Conference staff and observers.

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 Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.

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.

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 competition floor, unless prevented by extreme circumstances. Requests by the visiting team for practice time, other than the pre-game warm-up period, are to be made 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 Conference 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.

Radio and Television Timeouts.

1. **Radio.** In non-televised games, four radio timeouts are permitted during each half (at the first dead ball after the 16-, 12-, 8-, and 4-minute marks). These timeouts will be 1 minute and 45 seconds (1:45) in duration. Please see the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules for additional information about the number of timeouts allotted per game.
2. **Television.** Television timeouts may be called during televised contests at intervals designated in the contract with the respective television entities. These timeouts will be 2 minutes and 15 seconds (2:15) in duration. Please see the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Rules for additional information about the number of timeouts allotted per game.

Regular-Season Competition/Schedule Each institution will play 16 regular-season Conference games. The schedule shall consist of a single round robin (10 games) and home and away with one permanent opponent (2 games) and two random opponents (4 games). The permanent opponents are Alabama-Auburn, Arkansas-Missouri, Florida-Georgia, Kentucky-South Carolina, LSU-Texas A&M, Ole Miss-Mississippi State, and Tennessee-Vanderbilt. 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. The rotation of opponents through 2018 is located in Supplement A. Each institution shall submit its non-conference schedule to the Conference office for review and feedback.

Rim Testing. Each member institution shall conduct rim testing on its basketball goal rims 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. The following scouting policies apply to pre-season, regular-season, and post-season competition: [Revised: 11/8/15]

1. The SEC operates with an open video exchange policy. Therefore, all schools are required to provide video of all games to other SEC programs. All teams should use Synergy software as the primary means for transferring basketball video within the conference.
2. All SEC Women's Basketball programs must purchase the Synergy 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 and all games should remain in their school's Synergy folders until the season is complete (after NCAA championship).

3. Video from each game must be uploaded to Synergy according to the following: by noon the day following the contest:
 - A. Non-conference games:
 - i. Home games – must post within one hour after the completion of the game.
 - ii. Away games – must post upon arrival to campus. (If the team returns after midnight, the game must be posted by 9 a.m. local time).
 - B. Conference games:
 - i. Home team must post within one hour after completion of the game.
4. The video exchanged should be of high quality and recorded in HD Quality or higher. The following order of preference should be followed in completing a tape exchange:
 - A. Television copy (based on the 2015-16 2014-2015 approved SEC schedule) and a high quality coaches' copy.
 - B. Every effort should be made to upload video from an elevated and center perspective.
 - C. Ambient or natural sound is required; radio announcers or media broadcast are not permitted.
 - D. There must be a 10 second leader at the start of the game and halftime to ensure transfer.
 - E. All action must be taped from the first horn, **excluding** timeouts, halftime and injuries. In-bound sets, etc. should not be missed because taping commences after play has begun. Non-game action (i.e., halftime or timeouts) shall **NOT** be included on the video. Video should stop when the timeout is granted by the official, after a 5-second image of the scoreboard is shown (if score and time is not already present within the video frame). To help ensure no game action is missed, video should resume when the first warning horn is sounded.
 - F. Scoreboard must be shown for reference at all called and media timeouts if not already present in the video frame.
 - G. All ten players must be included in each frame when filming a settled, quarter-court offense.
 - H. 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 Synergy, then the institution must provide a DVD to every SEC institution within 48 hours following the match.

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**.

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.

Television. [SEC Bylaw 31.20.1]

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

Procedure for stoppage for an official review:

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

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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 Restrictions. Each team bench will consist of 22 seats and will be limited to the use of 22 individuals as follows: players, coaches, trainers, managers, statistician, and/or team physician or designated team members. Bench assignments will be based on seeding.

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. Future dates and sites for the tournament are:

2016	March 2 – 6	Jacksonville, FL (Veterans Memorial Arena)
2017	March 1 – 5	TBD
2018	February 28 – March 4	Nashville, TN (Bridgestone Arena)

Format. The Conference tournament shall be a 14-team single-elimination tournament.

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

Seeding. Teams will be seeded No. 1 through No. 14 in the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament 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. 10 will receive a first-round bye in the SEC Women's Basketball Tournament.

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
 - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
 - B. Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary).
 - C. Coin flip by the Commissioner.

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

For the purpose of seeding, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, such institution will automatically be seeded last. The No. 11 seed will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, the team precluded from participating in the tournament will remain where it finished in the regular-season standings BEFORE being seeded last.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] Only 15 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.

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 May 15th 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 100 additional lower level, side-court tickets for each session in which its team participates. Each institution participating in the tournament championship game shall purchase 150 additional tickets for such game.

SEC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
3-YEAR SCHEDULE ROTATION

16 Conference Games – One Permanent Opponent & Two Rotating

2016 Rotation of Opponents

	Home	Away	Home & Away
AL	UG, LSU, UM, USC, TAM	@ARK, @UF, @UK, @MSU, @MZ	AU, UT, VU
AR	AL, UF, UM, TAM, VU	@AU, @UG, @UK, @LSU, @USC	MZ, MSU, UT
AU	AR, MZ, USC, TAM, VU	@UG, @LSU, @UM, @MSU, @UT	AL, UF, UK
UF	AL, UK, MSU, TAM, VU	@AR, @UM, @MZ, @USC, @UT	UG, AU, LSU
UG	AR, AU, UK, UM, MSU	@AL, @USC, @UT, @TAM, @VU	UF, LSU, MZ
UK	AL, AR, LSU, MZ, UT	@UF, @UG, @UM, @MSU, @TAM	USC, AU, VU
LSU	AR, AU, UM, MSU, UT	@AL, @UK, @MZ, @USC, @VU	TAM, UF, UG
UM	AU, UF, UK, MZ, VU	@AL, @AR, @UG, @LSU, @UT	MSU, USC, TAM
MSU	AL, AU, UK, USC, UT	@UF, @UG, @LSU, @TAM, @VU	UM, AR, MZ
MZ	AL, UF, LSU, UT, VU	@AU, @UK, @UM, @USC, @TAM	AR, UG, MSU
USC	AR, UF, UG, LSU, MZ	@AL, @AU, @MSU, @UT, @VU	UK, UM, TAM
UT	AU, UF, UG, UM, USC	@UK, @LSU, @MSU, @MZ, @TAM	VU, AL, AR
TAM	UG, UK, MSU, MZ, UT	@AL, @AR, @AU, @UF, @VU	LSU, UM, USC
VU	UG, LSU, MSU, USC, TAM	@AR, @AU, @UF, @UM, @MZ	UT, AL, UK

2017 Rotation of Opponents

	Home	Away	Home & Away
AL	AR, UF, UK, MSU, UT	@UG, @LSU, @USC, @TAM, @VU	AU, UM, MZ
AR	AU, UG, UK, MSU, USC	@AL, @UF, @UM, @UT, @TAM	MZ, LSU, VU
AU	UG, UK, LSU, MSU, UT	@ARK, @UF, @MZ, @TAM, @VU	AL, UM, USC
UF	AR, AU, UM, MZ, USC	@AL, @UK, @LSU, @MSU, @VU	UG, UT, TAM
UG	AL, LSU, UT, TAM, VU	@AR, @AU, @UM, @MSU, @MZ	UF, UK, USC
UK	UF, UM, MSU, TAM, VU	@AL, @AR, @AU, @LSU, @UT	USC, UG, MZ
LSU	AL, UF, UK, MZ, USC	@AU, @UG, @UM, @MSU, @UT	TAM, AR, VU
UM	AR, UG, LSU, UT, TAM	@UF, @UK, @MZ, @USC, @VU	MSU, AL, AU
MSU	UF, UG, LSU, MZ, VU	@AL, @AR, @AU, @UK, @USC	UM, UT, TAM
MZ	AU, UG, UM, USC, TAM	@UF, @LSU, @MSU, @UT, @VU	AR, AL, UK
USC	AL, UM, MSU, UT, VU	@AR, @UF, @LSU, @MZ, @TAM	UK, AU, UG
UT	AR, UK, LSU, MZ, TAM	@AL, @AU, @UG, @UM, @USC	VU, UF, MSU
TAM	AL, AR, AU, USC, VU	@UG, @UK, @UM, @MZ, @UT	LSU, UF, MSU
VU	AL, AU, UF, UM, MZ	@UG, @UK, @MSU, @USC, @TAM	UT, AR, LSU

2018 Rotation of Opponents

	Home	Away	Home & Away
AL	UG, MZ, USC, TAM, VU	@UF, @UK, @UM, @MSU, @UT	AU, ARK, LSU
AR	UF, LSU, UM, UT, TAM	@AU, @UG, @MSU, @USC, @VU	MZ, ALA, UK
AU	ARK, UF, UM, MZ, VU	@UG, @UK, @MSU, @USC, @UT	ALA, LSU TAM
UF	ALA, UK, LSU, UT, VU	@ARK, @AU, @MZ, @USC, @TAM	UG, UM, MSU
UG	ARK, AU, MSU, MZ, USC	@ALA, @UK, @LSU, @UT, @TAM	UF, UM, VU
UK	ALA, AU, UG, LSU, UT	@UF, @UM, @MZ, @TAM, @VU	USC, ARK, MSU
LSU	UG, UM, MSU, UT, VU	@ARK, @UF, @UK, @MZ, @USC	TAM, ALA, AU
UM	ALA, UK, MZ, USC, VU	@ARK, @AU, @LSU, @UT, @TAM	MSU, UF, UG
MSU	ALA, ARK, AU, USC, TAM	@UG, @LSU, @MZ, @UT, @VU	UM, UF, UK
MZ	UF, UK, LSU, MSU, UT	@ALA, @AU, @UG, @UM, @TAM	ARK, USC, VU
USC	ARK, AU, UF, LSU, TAM	@ALA, @UG, @UM, @MSU, @VU	UK, MZ, UT
UT	ALA, AU, UG, UM, MSU	@ARK, @UF, @UK, @LSU, @MZ	VU, USC, TAM
TAM	UF, UG, UK, UM, MZ	@ALA, @ARK, @MSU, @USC, @VU	LSU, AU, UT
VU	ARK, UK, MSU, USC, TAM	@ALA, @AU, @UF, @LSU, @UM	UT, UG, MZ

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are designated liaisons for men's and women's cross country: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications –Sean Cartell.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. [SEC Bylaw 17.30] 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. [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 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.
2. **All-Freshman Teams.** The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the top seven freshmen (true or redshirt) 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 (true or redshirt) 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. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

9. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.

Coaches Committee. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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. For 2014-2015, the coaches committee will include Auburn, LSU, Texas A&M (2015-2017). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Coaches Meeting [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head track and field coach is required to attend the annual meeting in September 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) and Kentucky (2017-2018). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Conference Championships. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] 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.

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

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Administrative Teleconference and Meeting. Coaches from each institution competing in the Conference championships shall participate in a mandatory teleconference prior to the start of the championships to review policies and procedures. In addition, 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 chairs of the men’s and women’s coaches committees, a representative of the host institution (either the meet director or the head coach), and the SEC liaison. 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.

Dates and Sites. The championships will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA regional meets on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday. The 2015 championships will be held in College Station, Texas on October 30, and will be hosted by the Texas &M University. (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 will rotate to the next institution in sequence). Future hosts of the championships will be:

2016	Arkansas	2020	LSU	2024	Mississippi State
2017	Georgia	2021	Missouri		
2018	Auburn	2022	Ole Miss		
2019	Kentucky	2023	South Carolina		

Disqualification. Competitors who fail to complete the prescribed course, as defined by the legal marking system, will be disqualified.

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 SEC Cross Country Championships. 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 and jury of appeals 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. (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]

Finish. The finish chute will be constructed of rope, banners and stakes (padded if sharp or dangerous edges protrude). Finish-line substitutes (five to eight individuals) will be used in the chute for incapacitated runners.

Format. Institutions may enter either individuals or a full team of ten runners. The women will run first in even-numbered years, and the men will run first in odd-numbered years.

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 required officials (see “Officials” below), 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 and jury of appeals;
- Oversee a random draw for team starting box positions and notify participating teams prior to the practice runs;
- 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 SEC 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, submit three clean copies of the final results to the SEC 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 championships director shall obtain the following officials: referee, starter, and a three-person jury of appeals of non-Conference persons to be used by the referee to aid in decisions and to act on appeals. The decisions of the jury of appeals shall be final. The host institution is responsible for training all officials in accordance with SEC and NCAA rules. [NOTE: If the host does not utilize a timing chip system, quick-score persons (as many as teams entered) must also be provided, along with four judges of the finish.]

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.

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. All changes of direction must be indicated by the use of signs, directional boundaries, guideposts and flags that are seven feet high (blue when the course lies straight ahead, red when it lies to the left and yellow when it lies to the right). The construction and placement of these markings may not develop a hazard to the runners or permit confusion as to the direction, and must act as a curb throughout the entire distance of the courses. Each team will be allotted as close to 16 feet (or more) as the courses allow for their respective starting boxes.

Scoring. Each team may have ten competitors. 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. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 12 in women’s cross country and 10 in men’s cross country. [Revised 8/18/15]

Tickets. The host institution may decide whether or not 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 amount of tickets.

Uniforms. See General Administration Section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.

EQUESTRIAN

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for equestrian: Sport Administrator – Chuck Dunlap; Communications – Courtney Fritts.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. [SEC Bylaw 17.30] 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. [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. 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. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches following the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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. **Coach of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

8. **Athlete of the Month.** The SEC 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. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in December at the SEC Office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Texas A&M serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Auburn (2016-2017), Georgia (2017-2018), and South Carolina (2018-2019). Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] 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.

Officials. In dual head-to-head competitions against SEC opponents, the visiting team shall prepare a list of at least six officials with approval from the host school. 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 \$550 per meet by the host institution. Each institution will determine payment standards for stewards. In dual head-to-head competitions against SEC opponents, judges may not reside within a 200 mile radius of the two participating institutions. This restriction will not apply to the annual SEC Equestrian Championship.

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 SEC regular season equestrian schedule shall consist of home and away competition between each SEC equestrian program. 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 SEC vs. SEC dual meet competition.

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 SEC equestrian champion is 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 SEC Sport Administrator (chair) and the head coach of each institution.

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.

All-Championship Team. Each head coach will submit a nomination for one of their own athletes per event to Sean Cartell for the SEC Championship's All-Championship Team. A ballot will be compiled and coaches will vote on this award immediately following the SEC 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 three weeks prior to the NCEA Championship on Friday and Saturday. The 2016 championship will be held in Bishop, GA on March 25-26, and will be hosted by the University of Georgia. Future hosts of the championship will be:

2017	Auburn
2018	South Carolina
2019	Texas A & M

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 SEC 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 SEC Championship 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. A draw will also occur to determine which team will be placed on left/right side of bracket. Horse order of go will be determined prior to draw (all horses in alphabetical order) and rider order of go will be determined by the horses drawn.

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 liaison. 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 SEC 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 SEC coaches to nominate, vote and approve the necessary officials for the following SEC 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 will provide four scribes who have no affiliation with any of the competing teams and who are not student-athletes. None of the competing teams will have a scribe sit with a judge. The scribes cannot have contact with coaches, student-athletes or other team members from the time they meet the judges until the meet is complete.

Fees. The host institution will issue the following payment for officials and scribes:

<u>Judges (4 – two per discipline)</u>	<u>\$550 fee/day of meet</u>
<u>Stewards (2 – one per discipline)</u>	<u>\$300 fee/day of meet</u>
<u>Scribe (4 – one for each judge)</u>	<u>\$150 fee/day of meet</u>

Patterns, Tests and Courses. The host institution will organize the nomination, editing, and voting on all SEC 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 will submit four fence courses to the member institutions for consideration.

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 SEC representative, 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.

Practices. The host institution shall make its facility available for practices the day prior to competition. The host institution, in conjunction with the Conference's 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 SEC institutions utilizing the NCEA post season timelines as listed in NCEA 5.3.1.2.

Schedule. The meet schedule for the SEC Equestrian Championship will be determined by the host institution with approval from the Conference 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 [Figure 17.1]. The SEC Championship squad size is 28 student-athletes (20 competitors and eight non-competing alternates), but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Equestrian Championship. Non-participating student-athletes are permitted to access the competition area for schooling and caretaking of horses only. Changes are not permitted during the championship once the 28 student-athletes have been designated.

Tickets. The host institution may decide whether or not 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 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.

FOOTBALL

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for football: Sport Administrator – TBD; Championship Game/Game Management – Mark Womack; Communications – Herb Vincent/Chuck Dunlap/Ben Beaty; Officiating – Steve Shaw/Ginny Thomas/Cole Cunningham; Scheduling/Television – Mark Womack.

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. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 c and d]

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. SEC 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. SEC 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. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
5. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC coaches will participate only in balloting conducted through the Conference office.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **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.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Bands. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5d] The following guidelines will apply to Conference games:

1. Marching bands should exit the field toward the end zones or outside the team areas. Under no circumstances may marching bands exit the field into the visiting bench area.
2. 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.
3. Bands, and any component thereof (e.g. drums), shall not play from the time the offensive center takes his place over the football until the football has been snapped.
 4. It is the responsibility of the visiting band director to notify the host institution's event management director no later than 30 days prior to a game that the visiting band will be attending. This will allow the host institution to make the necessary arrangements for security, parking and access.
 5. Visiting team marching 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.
 6. Amplification of the **home team** band is permitted during times the band is allowed to play.
 7. In the event both marching bands perform at halftime, each band shall be limited to seven minutes total.
 8. In order for the visiting team marching band to perform at half-time, the visiting team must request permission from the host institution's Athletics Director by February 1. If the host institution's Athletics Director does not grant permission, the visiting team marching band may not perform at half-time.
 9. 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.
 10. Band members (as well as instruments and equipment) shall not occupy the area between the 45-yard lines after the three-minute mark on the pre-game clock. Also, during this time, "tunnels" may not be formed that cause team members to enter the field in this area.
 11. 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.
 12. If a band does not comply with these regulations, the Athletics Director of the involved institution shall be asked to rectify the situation. Failure to comply with the regulations fully may also subject that institution to financial penalties, as prescribed by the Commissioner.

Bench Passes. A maximum of 50 bench passes will be issued to the home team and a maximum of 60 bench passes will be issued to the visiting team by the home sports information director or game management director. Every person in the bench area, except the players in uniform and the 10 full-time coaches of the home team, must wear a bench pass, including all trainers, managers, team doctors, graduate assistant coaches, undergraduate coaches, and strength coaches, etc. It is recommended that all persons with bench passes have some type of game-related responsibilities. Home team security personnel shall be charged with the responsibility for keeping individuals with bench passes within the confines of the bench area. Those with bench passes are NOT permitted in other areas on the sidelines.

Ball crew members, telephone equipment repair representatives, medical emergency personnel and other persons with game management responsibilities are considered to be game personnel and should be given working passes.

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.

Camps. Until May 29, 2016, SEC football coaching, strength and conditioning, and administrative staffs may not conduct, attend, or be involved in any way with football camps off their institution's campus, except:

1. On-field graduate assistant coaches, at their own expense, may work one off-campus camp per year for the advancement of their coaching career.
2. Fellowship of Christian Athletes camps are exempt from this regulation.

Camp Compensation. Each institution shall submit to the Conference office, by May 15 of each year, the job title, responsibilities, expected compensation rate, expected dates and hours of employment, expected total compensation, source of compensation, and form of compensation for each football student-athlete (and prospective student-athlete) who will be employed at institutional football camps during the upcoming summer along with an explanation of how such compensation meets NCAA requirements.

Each institution shall also submit to the Conference office, by August 15 of each year, the job title, responsibilities, actual compensation rate, actual dates and hours of employment, actual total compensation, source of compensation, and form of compensation for each football student-athlete (and prospective student-athlete) employed at institutional football camps during that previous summer along with an explanation of how such rate meets NCAA requirements.

Each institution must also provide to the Conference office all sources of camp funding (other than camp registration fees) along with the total amount of camp funding derived from a source other than camp registration fees. The Athletics Directors shall review such reports annually.

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.
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 takes his place over the football until the football has been snapped.
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 cheerleaders only during pre-game, halftime and post-game when neither team is on the field (warm-up or competition).
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 insure that the system does not interfere with the view of the crowd.
9. A mike-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 mike-person is to lead the crowd in chants and cheers, not to provide commentary for the fans.

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.

Clinics. SEC football coaching, strength and conditioning, and administrative staffs may not conduct, attend, or be involved in any way with football coaching clinics off their institution's campus, except:

1. Countable coaches may speak at or attend coaching clinics conducted off their institution's campus only when there are no prospective student-athletes enrolled in or attending the clinic and the clinic is not conducted at a prospective student-athlete's educational institution.
2. On-field graduate assistant coaches may speak at or attend one off-campus coaching clinic per year only when there are no prospective student-athletes enrolled in or attending the clinic and the clinic is not conducted at a prospective student-athlete's educational institution.
3. Fellowship of Christian Athletes coaching clinics are exempt from this regulation.

Coaches Meeting [SEC Bylaw 21.8] 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 SEC office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with LSU serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Ole Miss (2016-2017), Mississippi State (2017-2018), and Missouri (2018-19). 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.

Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] The Conference champion will be determined by a game between the two division champions. The team in each division with the highest percentage of wins during all regular-season Conference competition will be declared division champion. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they will be declared division co-champions. Division standings will be calculated on a percentage basis, using only those Conference games which are a part of the regular rotating schedule. 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.

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 divisional champions (utilizing any divisional tie-breakers as outlined) shall be declared co-champions and the following procedures will be used to determine the Conference representative to the Sugar Bowl or, if the Sugar Bowl is the College Football Playoff (CFP) semi-final game, the relevant CFP access bowl:

1. A team ranked either No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, or No. 4 in the final CFP Selection Committee Rankings will automatically be placed in the CFP semi-final game;

2. The team ranked highest in the final CFP Selection Committee Rankings will be the Conference representative to the Sugar Bowl or, if the Sugar Bowl is a CFP semi-final game, the relevant CFP access bowl.

Communications. If either team loses TOTAL communication from the bench to press box, it should notify the Referee, who will 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.

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.

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, and an auxiliary down marker (without numbers) 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. The game clock shall be controlled by the standby official on the field. In consultation with the originating television network and/or home game management, the standby official shall start the scoreboard clock 60 minutes prior to kickoff.

The starting of the 20-minute halftime clock shall be the responsibility of the referee, who is instructed to signal for the clock to start after the playing field is completely clear of all players, coaches and support personnel (including any television interviews that take place on the playing field).

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.

Headsets. Only countable coaches, graduate assistant coaches, undergraduate assistant coaches, managers, and eligible student-athletes may wear headsets during competition. In addition, four other institutional staff members may wear headsets with a disabled microphone during competition for administrative purposes.

Inclement Weather. All weather-related decisions before kickoff shall be made by the home team's Athletics Director or senior-level administrator, in consultation with the referee (See "Interrupted Game Procedures" in General Administration section). All weather-related decisions during a game will be made by the referee, in consultation with home team game management as follows:

1. When word reaches the referee that a tornado warning is in effect for the immediate area or if lightning strikes are within eight miles of the facility, the referee will immediately stop the game and inform both coaches that the game is being suspended at this point.
2. The referee will inform the home team, and the umpire will inform the visiting team, that ALL team personnel will 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 these particular institutions.
3. Play will be resumed only when the referee has been notified that the tornado warning has been lifted or that the lightning has abated in accordance with the SEC lightning policy.
4. Suspended play beyond this point is covered by NCAA rules.

Interrupted Game Procedures. See General Administration Section of Commissioner's Regulations.

Lightning Policy. 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.

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 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 (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.

Additionally, the head referee should be notified when lightning is detected within 15 miles of the competition site.

In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition: A maximum of 10 minutes could be used for the marching band, national anthem and introductions, immediately following the 30 minute time period of no detected lightning strikes. The home institution would have the option of whether or not the 10 minute time period is added.

Media Days. Each head coach will attend the annual SEC Football Media Days in late July. Each institution will 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 SEC institution plays an annual contest). Non-conference institutions competing at an SEC home site (including neutral site facilities where the SEC institution plays an annual contest) may agree to utilize the SEC medical observer by executing an SEC 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 SEC replay booth to perform his or her duties. However, an SEC 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 (1) that a player displays obvious signs of disorientation or is clearly unstable due to head or neck injury, and (2) it becomes apparent that the player will remain in the game and not be attended to by the team's medical or athletic training staff, then the medical observer shall take the following steps:
 - A. If the player does not receive medical attention, alert the replay officials immediately and identify the player by his team and jersey number.
 - B. Contact the medical staff of the player involved and advise that the player appears to be in need of medical attention and the basis for the stoppage.
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.

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) outside of the institution's locker rooms or equipment rooms, during an official or unofficial visit.

Officials. [SEC Bylaws 10.5 and 30.20.1] The Conference office will assign officials. 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 SEC office the day following the incident.

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.

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 office only. Likewise, this policy will preclude officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.

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.

It is the responsibility of home team game management to confirm game times and other information on the SEC officiating website (Contact the SEC office for additional information.).

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.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at Conference games:

1. Security escorts for officials should be provided as follows:
 - A. 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.
 - B. 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 **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.
 - C. 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.
2. The officials' dressing room should be secure, conveniently located and set up as described in the SEC Game Management Manual:
3. If an official requests the service of a trainer or needs any 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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 – The crew of officials assigned to each game will receive a total of 20 complimentary tickets (two for each official, alternate official and instant replay official). 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.

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. The playing field must be available for pre-game warm-up no later than 70 minutes before kickoff. 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 if it is still on the field.

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.

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.

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. Regular-season competition and scheduling are governed by the following:

1. Each Conference team shall play eight Conference games each year. The schedule will consist of a 6-1-1 format, whereby each institution will play all six of its division opponents, one permanent opponent and one rotating opponent from the other division each year. The permanent non-division opponents will be as follows:

- Alabama v. Tennessee
- Arkansas v. Missouri
- Auburn v. Georgia
- LSU v. Florida
- Ole Miss v. Vanderbilt
- Mississippi State v. Kentucky
- Texas A&M v. South Carolina

The remaining six non-divisional opponents will be played on a rotating basis. 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 SEC Presidents and Chancellors for final resolution.

2. Each Conference team shall also 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).
3. Freshman and Junior-Varsity Football - Freshman or junior-varsity football teams of the Conference 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 ONLY 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 Complimentary Admissions. [SEC Bylaw 16.2]

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. Any 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.

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 SEC office and the head coach.

Television. [SEC Bylaw 30.21.2]

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.

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. Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except when a stoppage occurs for an official review. The time during which replays may be shown is 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.

In no circumstance will 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.

Procedure for stoppage for an official review:

When a stoppage occurs for an official review, the in-stadium video board operator must use the unaltered television network program feed as the exclusive video source for replays of the play under review. No live coverage of any coach, student-athlete, or fan reaction may be shown from the program feed during the review. Replays from the program feed 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 Exchange.

1. **Origination.** The exchange for each game must include intercut SL (Wide – All 22) / EZ (Tight) video. A two-second scoreboard shot must precede each play with the most accurate Time, Down, Distance and Field Position information.

Edits must be broken down into “offense,” “defense” and “special teams”. All 22 players must be in the frame at the snap of the ball on the SL angle. Each play must have any pre-snap motions or shifts on either side of the ball included in the sideline and end zone angles. Special teams must be grouped by phase (KO, Punt, etc.), and all sides of the ball must be in sequential order.

2. **Exchange Rules.** Unlimited video exchange is permitted within the Conference. This unlimited exchange includes the current and previous year (including bowl games). Games must be posted in Dragonfly Storm and made openly available for viewing and downloading to all SEC schools. Games must be posted in a universal HD format. The most recent game video file must be posted at the Video Coordinator's earliest convenience but no later than the morning of the day following the game.

No video is to be exchanged unless your institution is included in the video. All video requests from a non-conference opponent scheduled to play a host Conference team shall be made directly with the host team. The Conference member is only to share these self-scout videos. Furthermore, no other Conference member shall exchange game video with these non-Conference opponents.

If teams believe violations of the video exchange policies have occurred, it should be reported immediately to the SEC supervisor of officials and not be discussed in the media.

3. **Video to the Conference Office and Officials.** After each home game and after each away game involving a non-Conference opponent, an intercut game copy must be sent to the SEC office using Dragonfly Storm at the Video Coordinator's earliest convenience, but no later than the morning of the day following the game.

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 as follows.

2015	December 5 (Georgia Dome)
2016	December 3 (Georgia Dome)
2017	December 2 (TBD)

Divisional Champions and Tiebreakers. In the event of a tie for the divisional championship, the following procedures will be used:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** In the event two teams are tied for a division title, the following procedure will be used in the following order:

- A. Head-to-head competition between the two tied teams;
- B. Records of the tied teams within the division;
- C. Head-to-head competition against the team within the division with the best overall (divisional and non-divisional) Conference record, and proceeding through the division (multiple ties within the division will be broken from first to last and a tie for first place will be broken before a tie for fourth place);
- D. Overall record against non-divisional teams;
- E. Combined record against all common non-divisional teams;
- F. Record against the common non-divisional team with the best overall Conference record (divisional or non-divisional) and proceeding through other common non-divisional teams based on their order of finish within their division;
- G. Best cumulative Conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents; and

Example:

<u>Tied Teams</u>	<u>Non-Divisional Opponents</u>	<u>Cumulative Record</u>
Western 1	Eastern Opponents:	14-2
Western 2	Eastern Opponents:	12-4

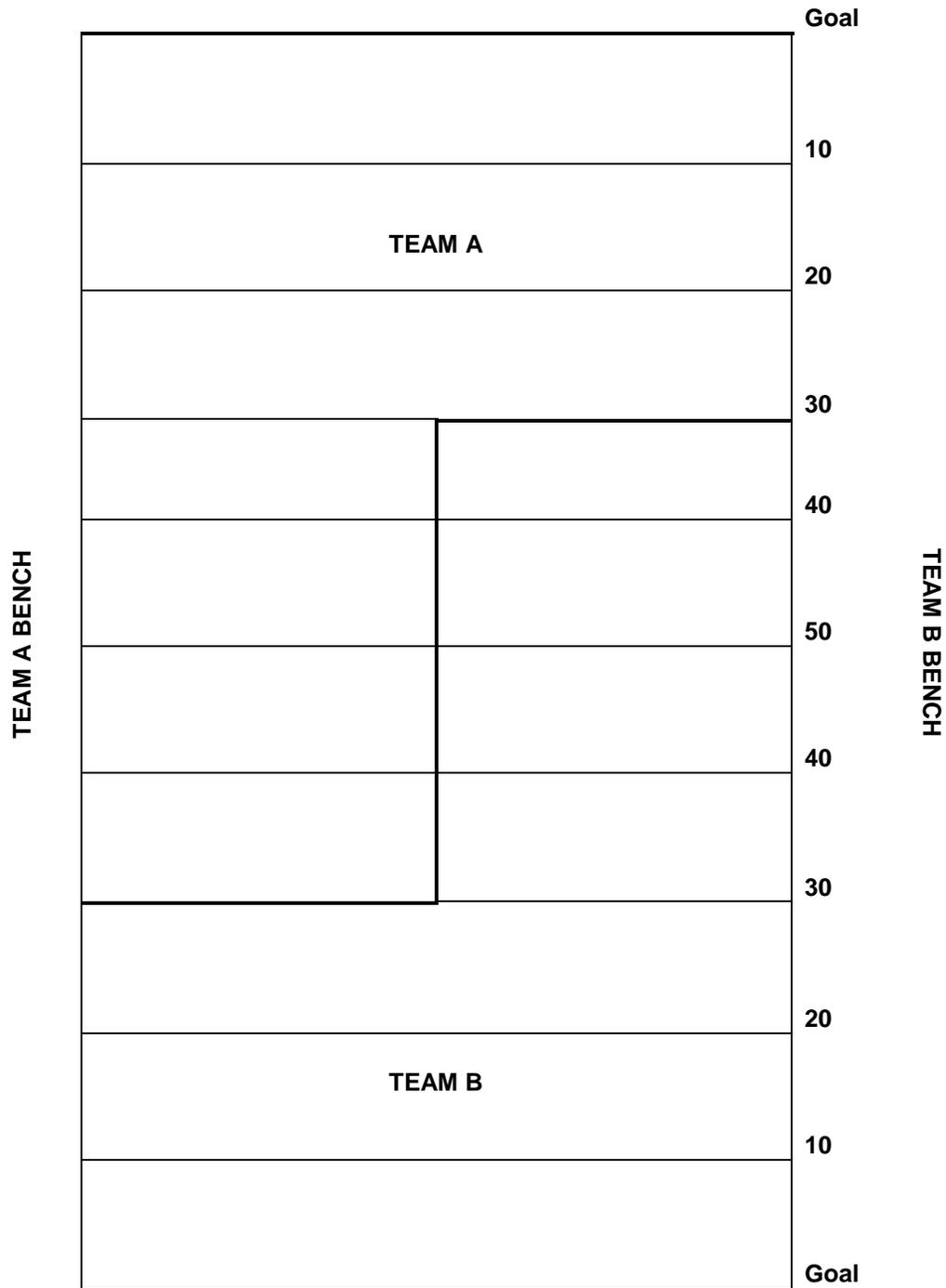
(Western 1 would be the representative)

H. Coin flip of the tied teams.

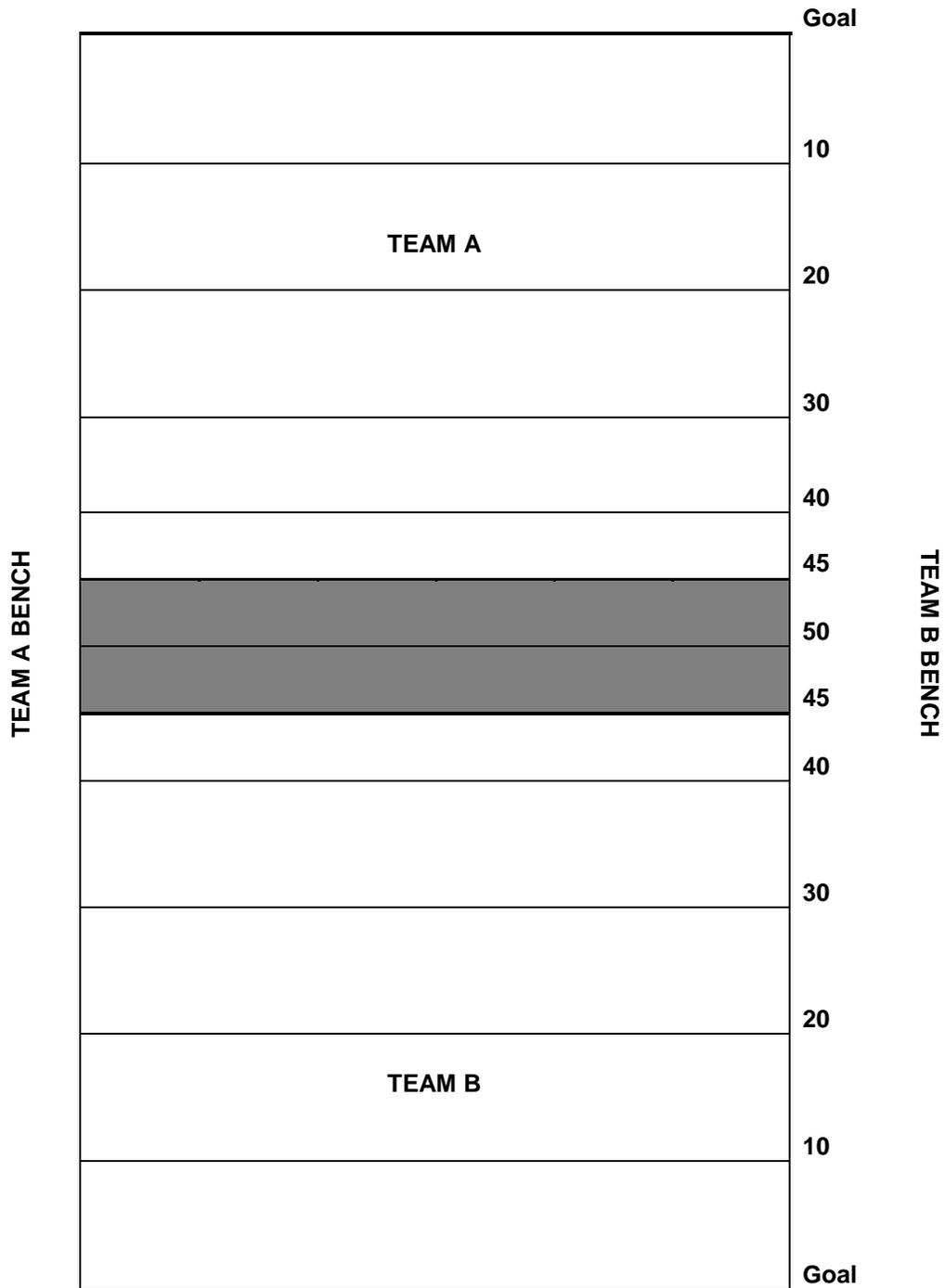
2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** If three teams (or more) are tied for a division title, the following procedure will be used in the following order: (Note: If one of the procedures results in one team being eliminated and two remaining, the two-team tiebreaker procedure as stated in No. 1 above will be used):

- A. Combined head-to-head record among the tied teams;
- B. Record of the tied teams within the division;
- C. Head-to-head competition against the team within the division with the best overall Conference record (divisional and non-divisional) and proceeding through the division (multiple ties within the division will be broken from first to last and a tie for first place will be broken before a tie for fourth place);
- D. Overall Conference record against non-divisional teams;
- E. Combined record against all common non-divisional teams;

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



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



MEN'S GOLF

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's golf: Sport Administrator – Mark Whitworth; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

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 first team (eight players) and second team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Online voting ballots will be distributed the week following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list 15 players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot. The top seven players listed will receive two points and the next eight 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 seven point receivers (along with the winner of the SEC Championship) will be the first team and the next eight players will be the second team.
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 SEC 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.
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. The Freshman of the Year must be a true freshman.
5. **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.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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 2015-2016, the coaches committee will include Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky. Subsequent years will be as follows:

Georgia, Kentucky, and LSU (2016-2017) and Kentucky, LSU, and Ole Miss (2017-2018). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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 [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the Conference office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Auburn 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 Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] 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 champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

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 having a golf team shall schedule teams of other member institutions at its own option and 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.

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 the fourth week of April (effective 2017). The 2016 Championship will be held April 15-17, 2016 at the Sea Island Golf Club in St. Simons Island, Georgia. A practice round will be played Thursday, April 14, 2016. [Revised 12/15/15]

Distance Measuring Devices. In accordance with the note to USGA Rules 14-3, in this competition a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such function is actually used.

Entries. Each team may enter five players. Players and their positions may be changed up to the time they are called to the first tee on the first day of competition.

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 SEC 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 – 36 holes of stroke play
Day 2 – 18 holes of stroke play
Day 3 – Four morning matches | Two afternoon matches
Day 4 – 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]

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.
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.
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 SEC Championship Director, 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 fourth day. Each day's competition will be 18 holes. If, on the first two days of the championship, a round cannot be completed, the championship committee will determine whether the round should be cancelled or resumed the next day. In this case, pairings for the next day will not be changed.

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 SEC 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 and first round will be determined by the final regular season Golfstat rankings. For the second and third rounds, 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:

1. Cumulative total of the non-counting scores,
2. Highest cumulative individual total,
3. Second-highest cumulative individual total,
4. Third-highest cumulative individual total,
5. Fourth-highest cumulative individual total,
6. Fifth-highest cumulative individual total,
7. Tournament Committee decision.

Individual ties will be broken as follows:

1. Most recent score,
2. Original first round seeding.

Portable Electronic Devices. The use of portable electronic devices (MP3 Players, 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. Each team may play one 18-hole practice round at the site of the championship on the day prior to the start of competition. Teams are limited to five players during the practice round.

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 may play as a guest of a member until October 1; (2) Student-athletes who are members of the championship site course may play at any time.

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.

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.

Rules Committee. The rules committee will be comprised of the host golf professional and his staff, and other USGA officials. 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.

Schedule of Events.

Thursday	Practice Round; Coaches Meeting
Friday	First Round
Saturday	Second Round
Sunday	Final Round; Awards Ceremony

Sites. The site of the championship each year will be determined by a vote of the coaches with approval of the Athletics Directors. Each institution will co-host the championship and pay a hosting fee of \$3000. In the event the championship returns to campus sites, the following rotation will be followed:

Ole Miss	Mississippi St.	Tennessee	Auburn	Missouri
South Carolina	LSU	Vanderbilt	Georgia	Texas A&M
Arkansas	Florida	Alabama	Kentucky	

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 every round of competition. The Coaches' Committee, in consultation with the coaches, the course professionals and the rules officials will determine any change in the starting times.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 6.

Ties. Ties will be broken to determine first place only (team and medalist). If the tournament is tied at the end of 54 holes, a sudden-victory play-off will be held, beginning at the hole designated by the sport committee in consultation with the host golf professional and the head rules official. If there is a tie for both the team and individual titles, the team play-off will take place first, followed immediately by the individual play-off. If time does not permit for an individual playoff, co-champions will be awarded.

1. **Team Competition.** All five players on each tied team will play. If two teams are tied, the Nos. 5, 4, and 3 players from each team will play in the first group, followed by the Nos. 2 and 1 players. The best four scores from each team will be counted on each hole to determine the winner. If three or more teams are tied, the No. 5 players will play first, followed by the No. 4 players, etc.

If a team playoff is not possible, the tied teams will be named co-champions. The three-day total of the tied teams' non-counting scores will be used to determine which team receives the league's automatic NCAA Tournament bid. The team with the lowest three-day total will be awarded the automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

2. **Medalist Competition.** All players for the individual championship will draw numbers to determine the order of teeing off. Only first place will be determined.

Transporting Players. For the exclusive purpose of transporting players for ruling and lost ball situations, coaches will have the same status as the Tournament Rules Committee and will not be required to request specific authorization. To clarify, the intent is for the players to walk the course; 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.

SEC MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

SEC 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. Golfstat 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. Three 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 (14);
 - B. **Eight** for rules officials;

- C. Five for SEC 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)

WOMEN'S GOLF

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's golf: Sport Administrator – Charlie Hussey; Communications – Chuck Dunlap.

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 first team (eight players) and second team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC office the Monday prior to the Conference championship. Online voting ballots will be distributed the week following the Conference championship. Coaches shall list 15 players from the nomination forms on their voting ballot. The top seven players listed will receive two points and the next eight 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 seven point receivers (along with the winner of the SEC Championship) will be the first team and the next eight players will be the second team.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The all-freshman team (eight players) will be determined by a vote of the coaches. Completed online nomination forms are due at the SEC 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.
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. **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.
6. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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 2015-2016, the coaches committee will include Kentucky, LSU, and Ole Miss. Subsequent years will be as follows: LSU, Ole Miss, and Mississippi State (2016-2017), and Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and Missouri (2017-2018). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual meeting at the SEC Office. For 2016-17, this meeting will be held on November 15, 2016.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Kentucky serving as the chair for 2014-2015. Subsequent years will be as follows: LSU (2015-2016), Ole Miss (2016-2017), and Mississippi State (2017-2018). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] 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 Qualifier. The Conference champion will be the Conference's automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

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 having a golf team shall schedule teams of other member institutions at its own option and 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.

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:

1. Supervise the championship;
2. Plan and coordinate all activities of the championship;
3. Secure the services of all necessary personnel related to the championship;
4. Provide entry forms and send out mailings to coaches;
5. Report results to the SEC office;

6. Officially register the championship with the NCAA (forms sent by NCAA to the host in the fall with a deadline in October);
7. Obtain the services of at least six qualified USGA rules officials from the area who will be present on the course throughout the championship;
8. Consult the SEC office before making any corporate sponsorship commitments for the championship; and
9. If showing a video at a team banquet, receive pre-approval from the Conference Championship liaison.

Course Set-Up. The host golf professional and head rules official, in consultation with the Coaches' Committee shall perform the following duties:

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 will be held two weeks prior to the NCAA regional championships, or within the deadline for submitting qualifying scores established by the NCAA, insofar as possible. Future dates and sites for the championship are:

2016	April 15-17	Hoover, AL (Greystone Golf and Country Club)
2017	April 14-16	TBD

Entries. Each team may enter five players. Players and their positions may be changed up to the time they are called to the first tee on the first day of competition.

Equipment and Personnel. The host shall provide the following:

1. Registration table with at least two people assigned to work;
2. Scoreboard, score sheets and two score keepers each day;
3. Starters for each day (practice and competition);
4. Spotters at designated trouble spots on the course;
5. Scorecards arranged according to starting times and labeled by player name and institution;
6. Marshals to maintain satisfactory pace of play;
7. Golf carts for rules officials, media, each head coach and SEC staff liaison; and
8. Information packet about the championship.
9. Refreshments for players at the first tee, the turn and the last hole.

Format. The championship will consist of a 54-hole stroke-play tournament of all members sponsoring the sport. 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.

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. Coaches may transport anyone they desire, except players.
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.
3. **Spectators.** Golf carts are not permitted by spectators. The coaches committee may make exceptions for special needs. Each coach must submit the name(s) of the spectator(s) for whom a golf cart is requested. Each request will be acted upon individually, provided carts are available for rental. The request must be accompanied by a physician's statement of condition and/or a handicapped tag.

Host Sports Information Contact. The host sports information contact shall:

1. Prepare and distribute advance publicity for the Conference Championship event;
2. Provide information to local, regional and national media during the championship;
3. Supervise and coordinate media interviews and the media work area;
4. Send each day's results to all other Conference schools and the SEC office, including the SEC website;
5. At the end of the championship, mail three clean copies of the final results to the SEC office;
6. Perform any other duties pertaining to the media aspect of conducting the event; and
7. Work with the championship director as needed.

Inclement Weather. The championship may be shortened due to inclement weather. No provision is made for extending the Championship to a fourth day. Each day's competition will be 18 holes. If, on the first two days of the championship, a round cannot be completed, the championship committee will determine whether the round should be cancelled or resumed the next day. In this case, pairings for the next day will not be changed. All other decisions regarding the conduct of the championship and inclement weather issues will be determined by USGA rules officials in conjunction with the championship committee.

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.

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

Pairings. Pairing for the practice round will be made based on the previous year's finish. Pairing for the first round will be made based on the latest Golfstat rankings. Team ties will be broken during the championship by the fifth golfer's score. NCAA regulations will be followed with the other tie situations.

Personnel.

1. Minimum of six rules officials;
2. Starter – Responsible for all tee times, rules sheets, hole-location sheets, pencils, ball markers and tees;
3. Scorer – Responsible for verifying all scorecards (may be same person as the starter);

4. Scoreboard operator – Oversees entire procedure; individual and team leader boards for all days of competition;
5. Sports information contact(s):
 - A. Type, copy and distribute tee times, team results each day, individual results each day, and labels for scorecards;
 - B. Story to Associated Press wire each day (optional); and
 - C. Send full results and list of award recipients to all 14 schools and Conference office the day following the championship.
6. Additional personnel/runners:
 - A. One person on No. 9 green throughout the event to obtain scores at the turn;
 - B. One person to assist the scoreboard operator and shuttle cards from scorer's tent to scoreboard; and
 - C. One additional runner to be used as needed.

Optional Items:

1. Shuttle service for participants between holes and/or to starting tee as needed.
2. Host school incurs cost of vans for use of teams flying to site of championship.
3. Team cookout on Thursday following the practice round.
4. Sandwiches for participants at completion of each round.
5. Coaches gift (one per school).
6. Coaches hospitality room.
7. Computer program for results and tee times.
8. Walkie-talkie radios for rules personnel, starter, score board operator, and head coaches.

Practice Rounds.

Each team may play one 18-hole practice round at the site of the championship on the day prior to the start of the championship. In addition, student-athletes may use the practice facility at the host course on the Wednesday prior to the championship. Only the practice facility may be used, not the course.

All other play at the site of the championship is prohibited, except as follows: (1) Student-athletes may play as a guest of a member until the first day of the fall semester preceding the championship; (2) Student-athletes who are members of the championship site course may play at any time.

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.

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:

First day	Practice round, coaches meeting/rules session
Second day	First round of competition
Third day	Second round of competition
Fourth day	Final round of competition, awards ceremony

Starting Times. Starting times will be determined each year by the coaches committee, in consultation with the coaches and host golf professional.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 6.

Tickets. The host institution of the championship may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, 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 amount of tickets.

Ties. Ties will be broken to determine first place only (team and medalist). If the championship is tied at the end of 54 holes, a sudden-victory play-off will be held, beginning at the No. 1 tee.

1. **Team Competition.** All five members of each tied team will play. If two teams are tied, the Nos. 4 and 5 golfers from each team will play in the first group, followed by the Nos. 3, 2 and 1 golfers. The best four scores from each team will be counted on each hole to determine the winner. If three or four teams are tied, the No. 5 golfers will play first, followed by the No. 4 golfers, etc.
2. **Medalist Competition.** If two or more individuals are tied for the individual championship, and one or more of the individuals is on a team tied for the team championship, the individual golfer(s) will be added to the team competition. The score of the tied team competition will concurrently count for the team and individual awards.

Uniforms. All team members must wear the uniform of the institution they represent. All guidelines, as outlined in NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4, regarding commercial logos on uniforms and equipment shall be followed. (See the General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations)

GYMNASTICS

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for gymnastics: Sport Administrator – Tiffany Daniels; Communications – Jill Skotarczak.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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 All-SEC Team will be comprised of the student-athletes with the top two scores (including ties) on each event and in the All-Around competition in the first session and second sessions of the SEC Championship.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The All-Freshman Team will be comprised of the freshmen student-athlete with the top score (including ties) on each event in the first session of the SEC Championship and the student-athlete with the top score (including ties) on each event in the second session of the SEC Championship. The All-Freshman Team will also include the freshmen student-athletes with the top two all-around scores (including ties) in the first session of the SEC Championship and the freshmen student-athletes with the top two all-around scores (including ties) in the second session of the SEC Championship.
3. **Gymnast of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. The following procedures will be used:
 - 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 RQS 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) SEC competitions.
5. **Specialist of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. To be nominated, a student-athlete must compete in at least three (3) SEC competitions.
6. **Coach of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote and the top recipient will be recognized during the week following the SEC Championship. In the event of a three-way tie, the tied coach with the highest finishing team shall be named Coach of the Year.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.
8. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner’s Regulations.

9. **Athlete of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **Specialist of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Ceremonies (Opening/Closing). Each institution may adopt its own procedures, as 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. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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 2015-2016, the coaches committee will include Arkansas, Auburn, and Florida. Subsequent years will be as follows: Auburn, Florida, and Georgia (2016-2017), Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky (2017-2018), and Georgia, Kentucky, and LSU (2018-2019). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Coaches Meeting [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in April or May at the SEC Office.

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

Conference Championship. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3] 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.

Consultants. Consultants are not be 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.

Introductions. Both the home and visiting team shall be lighted and introduced with the same information (hometown, etc.) by the public address announcer. Individual statistics from the current season will not be announced during the meet. The announcer will state that the gymnasts will proceed to their first event upon completion of the team introductions. In order to provide the public address announcer with the appropriate visiting team information, the host institution will include a form in the team information packet requesting the same information that will be announced for the host team introductions. It is the responsibility of the visiting team coach to complete the information and return it to the host team and for the host team to announce the same information for both teams during introductions. 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.

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. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.1] 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 \$275 with a \$50 overnight driver's allowance and a \$100 overnight flyer's travel allowance has been established. Mileage, air travel (including airport shuttle) and hotel accommodations will be paid by the host institution.

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

\$ 15.00 = 4 to 7 hours (away from home)

\$ 30.00 = more than 7 hours (away from home)

\$ 50.00 = Overnight Stay (away from home)

\$75.00 = No Overnight Stay (air-flight to competition)

\$100.00 = 1 Overnight Stay (air-flight to competition)

\$175.00 = 2 Overnight Stays (air-flight to competition)

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.

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 SEC 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. Regular season competition and scheduling are subject to the following:

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 SEC 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 SEC meets shall be conducted as dual meets, unless the SEC coaches involved mutually agree to another format. If the meet has more than two teams competing, the rightful SEC visiting head coach will choose the starting rotation. If there are more than two SEC teams competing, the other SEC 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 SEC visiting team, the rotation will be determined by a coin toss. The Conference office is responsible for developing the SEC 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.

Tickets. The visiting team shall be allotted 50 seats for its pass-list recipients. These seats shall be located in the prime lower-courtside of the arena on a reserved-seat basis. 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.

Uniforms. Teams shall follow NCAA policies in regards to competition and warm-up uniforms.

Warm-up. Each team will warm-up in competitive order during SEC meets. The warm-up policy will follow NCAA guidelines for warm-ups and competition.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Awards and Closing Ceremony. Teams will proceed directly to the floor apparatus immediately following conclusion of the second session of the championship meet. The All-SEC team will be recognized along with the event winners, all-around winners, and the team champion. All awards will be mailed 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 SEC 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. Future championship dates and sites are as follows:

2016	March 19	North Little Rock, AR (Verizon Arena)
2017	March 18	Jacksonville, FL (Veteran's Memorial Arena)
2018	March 24	St. Louis, MO (Chaifetz Arena)

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 SEC Championship. An equipment list will be sent to each head coach to review and sign off on before the championship each year. The equipment liaison for the 2016 championship is Phillip Ogeltree (UGA).

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

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

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The following are policies regarding judges:

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, SEC staff liaison and alternate official. The coaches committee at the site must approve any exception to this policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seeding. The rotation will be in Olympic order (bye, vault, bye, bars, beam, bye, floor). The draw will be based on seeding (determined by RQS).

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] Only 18 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests.

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 SEC office on the Monday after the championship.

Tickets. Each student-athlete (up to 18) is permitted entrance to the arena. In addition, eight passes will be placed in each coach's packet and issued to coaches, managers, and medical personnel. The Conference office will provide administrators from each institution with two additional passes. All others must have a ticket. Administrators may have access to the floor, but are encouraged to sit in a seat.

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 SEC and NCAA policies. (See General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations)

Warm-Up and Open Stretch. During the open stretch period, only background music provided by the host may be played. During each team's floor-exercise warm-up, teams may play their own music. Each team will be required to stretch on the mats at its first event.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's soccer: Sport Administrator – Leslie Claybrook; Communications – Craig Pinkerton; Officiating – Rachel Woo/Sylvia Hagan.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Artificial Noisemakers. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5e] 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. [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 14 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 and second-team. The coaches will discuss their Player of the Year and All-SEC candidates on a conference call prior to the Conference Tournament. The ballots are due to the Conference Office by noon CT following the coaches' conference call.

Points will be distributed as follows: Each player is awarded 10 points for each first-team vote and five points for each second-team vote. Those numbers are added together and divided by 14 (number of schools).

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. **Offensive Player of the Year.** The recipient will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches will vote for Offensive Player of the Year from the list of forwards and midfielders 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 Offensive Player of the Year. Following the call, the coaches' ballots are due to the Conference office by noon CT.
4. **Defensive Player of the Year.** The Defensive Player of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Offensive Player of the Year. The Defensive Player of the Year will be chosen from defenders, midfielders, and goalkeeper from the first team All-SEC Team.
5. **Freshman of the Year.** The Freshman of the Year will be determined in the same manner as the Offensive/Defensive Player of the Year.
6. **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.
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 (Offensive and Defensive)**. See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
10. **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. [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 a two-year rotation with Arkansas serving as the chair for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Auburn (2016-2017 and 2017-2018) and Florida (2018-2019 and 2019-2020). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. An individual must have attended an annual coaches meeting and coached one full season before serving as chair.

Conference Championship/Tournament. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.3]

1. The team with the highest number of points during regular-season Conference competition (using the point system for determining regular-season standings) will be declared Conference champion. The following point system will 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.
2. There will be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference 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.

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

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

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office will assign officials for all contests, including exhibition and non-conference games. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on www.spotfoul.com. Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan. Home team game management is responsible for confirming game times/dates and other information on the SEC officiating website. If there is discrepancy in the information, the home team game manager MUST IMMEDIATELY contact the visiting team and Sylvia Hagan at the Conference office.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding officials at all Southeastern 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. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. Comments on officiating are to be directed to the Conference administrator only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments on officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.
3. Films, videotapes, and DVD's shall not be used by coaches or other institutional personnel for public criticism of officials or officiating (e.g., the use of game films to produce clips for television or newspapers depicting

officiating calls). No reference to officiating matters shall be permitted on coaches' radio and/or television shows.

4. Coaches shall not contact officials directly through correspondence or telephone. All matters pertaining to officials or officiating must be directed to the Conference administrator only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches.
5. The list of game officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets.
6. 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.
7. *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.

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 revolving eleven-match schedule against Conference opponents. This schedule is set by administrative action of the Conference. Unless otherwise permitted by administrative action of the Conference, all matches will be played in a Friday/Sunday format, except the final match of the season is played on a Thursday.

Pre-Season Scouting and Videotape/Film Exchange. The following scouting and videotape/film exchange policies apply to regular season and post-season competition:

1. The SEC operates with an open exchange policy governing the exchange of game video. Therefore, all schools are required to provide video of all matches to other SEC programs. All teams must use Prozone software as the primary means for transferring women's soccer video within the conference;
2. All SEC women's soccer programs should purchase the Prozone 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;
 - A. Each institution is required to designate a computer for the Prozone software that must remain in the "on" position at all times to enable member institutions 24-hour access to files; and
 - B. All games should remain in a school's Prozone folder until the season is complete.
3. The video being uploaded should be of original quality and filmed from midfield;
4. Video from weekend conference and non-conference matches (Friday-Sunday) will not be available for download until the conclusion of play on Sunday;
 - A. Teams are responsible for uploading video from the previous weekend matches no sooner than the end of the team's Sunday match and no later than 11 a.m. local time on Monday;
 - B. The video of each match should be uploaded to the school's individual folder;
 - C. Each institution will have access to every institution's folder within Prozone, to enable them to download any match; and
 - D. With this film exchange policy, there is no need for formal tape requests.

5. No member institution shall exchange video or provide a scouting report to any non-conference institution regarding SEC teams. For the NCAA Tournament and exhibition matches, if a member institution is scheduled to compete against a team that previously played an SEC team in the NCAA tournament or an exhibition game (either fall or spring), then upon request, video from the match must be uploaded within 24-hours following the match; and through Prozone, institutions have the ability to monitor who downloads their matches and when the transfers occur.
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 Prozone, then the institution must provide a DVD to every SEC 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 that 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 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 referees;
 - 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 that a suspended individual 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. In the event that a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.

4. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Southeastern Conference Tournament only.

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 dark uniform on Friday and its light/white uniform on Sunday, unless mutually agreed upon by the participating teams. The visiting team shall wear its light/white uniform on Friday and its dark uniform on Sunday, unless mutually agreed upon by the participating teams. On single game and split weekends, the home team shall wear its light/white uniform and the visiting team shall wear its dark uniform.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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 their 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. The tournament site is determined by a vote of the Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators. Future dates are:

2015	November 2 – 8	Orange Beach, AL
2016	November 7-13	Orange Beach, AL
2017	November 6-12	Orange Beach, AL

If the tournament returns to campus sites, the order of rotation at SEC institutions is the following: Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Auburn, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, Vanderbilt, Georgia, LSU, Ole Miss, Missouri, and Texas A&M.

Equipment. The conference office provides game balls during the SEC tournament. The official ball used during the NCAA Tournament should be used for the SEC tournament.

Format. There shall be a single-elimination tournament of the top ten teams played at the conclusion of the SEC regular-season schedule. The tournament champion shall be the SEC representative to the NCAA championship.

The top ten teams with the highest point total, regardless of divisions, 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 Monday-Wednesday-Friday-Sunday format with Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday designated as off/practice days.

Game Protocol. NCAA procedures will be followed during pre-game. The home team shall communicate the march-out protocol to the visiting team at least five days prior to the match. 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. There will be no official practice day scheduled prior to the start of the tournament. Teams interested in pre-tournament practices should contact the host organization for assistance in scheduling time on the practice field at the facility. The game field may not be used for pre-tournament practices. Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday practices will be scheduled by the Conference office for those teams remaining in the tournament. Teams may be allowed to conduct a walk-thru on the field if requested. In the case of inclement weather, practices will be scheduled at an alternate location.

Seeding. The tournament will be seeded 1-10 regardless of division 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:

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 record of the two teams versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary.
 - F. Goal differential versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 14 seed, if necessary.
 - G. Goals scored versus highest seeded common opponent and proceeding through the No. 14 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. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] Only 24 student-athletes will be allowed to participate in each Championship contest, but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Institutions must designate the 24 student-athletes who will participate in a specific Championship contest prior to such contest. Non-participating eligible student-athletes may access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team’s Championship contests, but may not dress out. [Revised 8/18/15]

Tickets. Participating institutions are not required to purchase a block of tickets to the tournament. An early opportunity to purchase tickets will be made available to each institution. An institution may purchase general admission tickets as it advances in the tournament.

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. For additional information related to uniforms, see the General Administration section of these Commissioner's Regulations.

Videotaping. Teams may only videotape matches in which they are competing. Videotape of a tournament match may not be used to scout an opponent.

SOFTBALL

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for softball: Sport Administrator – Byron Hatch; Communications – Jill Skotarczak; Officiating – Lurline Hamilton/Sylvia Hagan.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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 the regular season, the SEC office will send out nomination links for All-SEC online voting, which are due back the following week. In order to nominate a player, she must have played in a minimum of 50 percent of the team’s conference games at the position nominated. Nominees for position players must have played in a minimum of 50 percent of the team’s conference games at the position nominated. Nominees for the pitching position must have played in a minimum of 25 percent of the team’s conference games. Nominees for DP/Utility must have played at least a total of 50 percent of the team’s conference games at two or more positions, with at least 33 percent of the total games being played at one position.

On Sunday following the last competition of the regular season, a list of nominees, a voting ballot and final SEC stats will be sent to all head coaches. The final ballots will be due on Monday afternoon.

The first and second teams will consist of 14 players each: infielders (5), outfielders (4), pitchers (3), catcher (1), and DP/utility (1). Ties will not be broken. Announcement of the All-SEC Teams will be made one day prior to the start of the SEC Softball Tournament.

2. **All-Freshman Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. Coaches vote during the All-SEC process.
3. **All-Defensive Team.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. SEC 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 during the All-SEC process. Player of the Year must be an All-SEC nominee and not a pitcher.
5. **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.
6. **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-Freshman Team nominee.
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. The regular season and the SEC Tournament will be governed by the annually approved Barrel Compression Testing Protocol attached as Supplement A.

Coaches Meeting [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in September at the SEC Office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Ole Miss serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Missouri (2016-2017), and South Carolina (2017-2018). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Conferences. Each team may hold no more than seven conferences (any combination of offensive or defensive conferences) during a seven inning game. If extra-innings are necessary, then NCAA rules will govern the number of conferences a team is permitted.

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 Southeastern Conference 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.

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 Rule 6.12, 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 conditions set forth in NCAA Softball Rule 6.14 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 Rule 6.16, the contest will be considered a "No Game" (see NCAA Softball Rule 6.18).

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]*

Examination Schedule. If a team is scheduled to play “away” during the week of its final examination period, the game will be rescheduled in advance by the two teams involved.

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. (see NCAA Softball Rule 5.1).

Inclement Weather. The inclement weather policy is as follows:

FOR 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. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
 - (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game on Saturday, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the Sunday regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - B. For games televised on the SEC Network
 - (1) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network 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.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game on the SEC Network 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.
 - (3) 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 Rule 6.12, 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 Rule 6.13.
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.

FOR 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. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU

- (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Friday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
- (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.

B. For games televised on the SEC Network

- (1) If a game is postponed on Thursday, and the regularly scheduled Friday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Friday game on the SEC Network 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.
- (2) If a game is postponed on Friday, and the regularly scheduled Saturday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Saturday game on the SEC Network 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.
- (3) 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 Rule 6.12, 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 Rule 6.13.

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 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.

FOR 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. For games televised on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU
 - (1) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the regularly scheduled televised game on Sunday, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Sunday, and the regularly scheduled Monday game is televised by ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU, the regularly scheduled televised Monday game must start at its published start time. If a postponed game is resumed/started prior to the start of the Monday regularly scheduled televised game, that game must be stopped after the completion of a full inning 45 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled televised game and resumed following the completion of the regularly scheduled televised game.
 - B. For games televised on the SEC Network

- (1) If a game is postponed on Saturday, and the regularly scheduled Sunday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Sunday game on the SEC Network 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.
 - (2) If a game is postponed on Sunday, and the regularly scheduled Monday game is televised by the SEC Network, institutions must use their best efforts to start the regularly scheduled televised Monday game on the SEC Network 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.
 - (3) 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 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 Rule 6.12, 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 Rule 6.13.
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 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 4:00 pm local time to avoid a rain out of the game.
 - C. If the game begins and is postponed (Monday 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 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 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 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.

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 Rule 15.3.12.

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.

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

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.1] The Conference office shall assign umpires for all home Conference and (effective August 1, 2014) non-conference contests. Notification of game officials and all information pertaining to officiating can be found on www.spotfoul.com. Access to the website can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Hagan.

The following procedures shall be utilized regarding umpires at all Southeastern Conference softball 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. Criticism of officials or the officiating program by institutional personnel is prohibited. Comments about officiating are to be directed to the Conference office only. All reports or comments pertaining to officiating or game management responsibilities, or concerning players, coaches or officials, shall be directed to the Conference office only. Public comments related to officiating by officials, coaches or institutional personnel are prohibited.

4. Films, videotapes, and DVD's 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. All matters pertaining to officials or officiating must be directed to the Conference office only. Likewise, this policy precludes officials from contacting coaches in a similar manner.
6. The list of game officials assigned to a game shall not be announced to the media and/or public prior to the distribution of pre-game information packets before a game.
7. 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 home team shall be responsible for the compensation and travel/expense reimbursements for the game officials for non-conference home games. Officials for non-conference games assigned through a local assignor or association as determined by individual institutions WILL BE PROCESSED AND PAID BY THE HOME INSTITUTION. The Conference office and Athletics Directors shall set the fees and travel/expense policies.
8. 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.

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. The visiting team representative is responsible for contacting the home team's representative to coordinate practice time on the field the day before the series begins. Visiting teams shall be limited to two hours of practice time; weather permitting, no other restrictions shall apply. Due to field preparations on the day of the game, game day field access may be limited or restricted. [Revised 12/15/15]

Pre-Game Protocol. Games will follow a pre-game protocol (see Supplement B of this section) that allows both the home team and the visiting team a 35-minute warm-up period and a seven-minute in-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.

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.

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 warm-up at the 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.

The established pre-game protocol specific to each stadium must be followed by the home and visiting team. Additionally, the institution's established stadium protocol must be the same for each visiting Conference institution. Home teams must provide visiting teams with the established pre-game rules and regulations at the same time practice times are coordinated.

Lastly, there is 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.

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. On Easter weekend, coaches may mutually agree to play a double –header on Friday or Saturday if they prefer not to play on Easter Sunday. 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 staff liaison. 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.

Rosters. For each series and prior to the first game of the series, teams shall submit a roster designating its 22 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]

Scouting. Coaches shall not share scouting information on other SEC teams with anyone.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 22 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. [Revised 8/18/15]

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 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 that 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 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 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.
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 that 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 will be forfeited. In the event that a suspended individual participates in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited.

5. This policy is in effect for all regular season games and the Southeastern Conference Tournament only.

Tickets. The home team shall provide up to 75 complimentary tickets/admissions to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series.

Tie-breaker. In regular season Conference games, the NCAA tie-breaker rule, as defined by NCAA Softball Rule 6.15, 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. Institutions are not limited in the use of replays (including number of replays shown), except as set forth in NCAA Softball Playing Rules (See Appendix H - Rules for Video, Audio, or Matrix Boards). The time during which permissible replays may be shown is from the end of a play until the next batter enters the batter's box. Replays may also be shown at a later time during the game as part of a package of highlights during a middle-of-inning or end-of-inning break. In no circumstances will the in-stadium video system be used to embarrass, humiliate, or disgrace an umpire 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 stadium video board.

Video and Electronics Equipment. An institution may only videotape its own contests. 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. The home team shall provide the same video including all angles 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. 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. Cameras may not be manned during play. Teams may only access such cameras during warm-up and between innings. Under no circumstances may institutional videographers capture film for scouting purposes.

The home team must provide video produced on the digital platform to the visiting team, when available.

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 and credentialed media (*e.g.*, television cameras). Information (*e.g.*, tagging video, etc.) from training programs such as Right View Pro and Dartfish may only be gathered from outside the team areas. There is absolutely no evaluating of video or other technology devices during the game.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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 28 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. The 2016 tournament will be held May 11-14, in Starkville, Mississippi, hosted by Mississippi State University.

2017	Tennessee	2020	Alabama	2023	Georgia
2018	Missouri	2021	Florida	2024	Auburn
2019	Texas A&M	2022	Arkansas		

Dugouts/Home Team Determination. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout, warm-up first and wear light uniforms. The visiting team will wear a contrasting color.

The higher seed in each game of the tournament will be designated the home team.

Format. The tournament shall be a 12-team, single-elimination format, beginning on Wednesday and concluding with the championship game on Saturday. The 12 tournament teams shall be determined based on the highest percentage of wins during regular-season Conference competition. The winner of the tournament receives the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

Game Times. The Conference administrator in consultation with the host institution will determine the game times. The host institution will have first choice of the time it prefers to play its first game of the tournament and the bracket will be adjusted accordingly throughout the remainder of the tournament. All times are local to the host institution. Start times may be adjusted to accommodate television schedule, weather delays or other unforeseen situations.

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 and is under separate cover.

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, with the exception of the eight-run rule. If the eight-run rule does not apply, at least five innings must be played in order for the game to be considered regulation or complete.

Manual. The tournament host 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.

Pre-Game Warm-up. The tournament field shall be available (weather permitting) two and a half (2.5) hours prior to each team's game and may be available for throwing and stretching. Each team will have 35 minutes in the batting cages.

Seeding. The team with the highest percentage of wins during the regular season Conference competition will be the No. 1 seed; the remainder of the tournament field will be seeded 2-10 based on the Conference winning percentage. Ties shall be broken in the following manner:

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
 - A. Won-lost record of head-to-head competition between the tied teams.
 - B. Won-lost record of the two teams versus the highest seeded common opponent.
 - 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-loss percentage of the tied teams versus the highest seed common opponent.
 - 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. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] Only 22 student-athletes will be allowed to participate but all eligible student-athletes will be permitted to receive expenses to attend the SEC Championship event. Non-participating student-athletes will not be permitted to access the competition area immediately prior to and during any of their team's Championship contests. [Revised 8/18/15]

Tickets. The host institution of the tournament may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, 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 must make contact with each participating school to communicate the ticket policy for the tournament, including payment instructions and player/pass gate information. Institutions are not required to purchase a specific number of tickets.

Uniforms. Teams must be prepared to wear light and dark uniforms. The higher seeded team in each game will wear light uniforms.

Videotaping. Participating teams may only videotape the games in which they are competing in and only from pre-determined assigned areas. Each team must provide its own video equipment and appropriate accessories (e.g. cords).

**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
SOFTBALL BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) PROTOCOL**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Southeastern Conference institutions shall follow the NCAA Bat Compliance Testing Program. The SEC 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 SEC.
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 game in the SEC regular season. Testing will occur prior to each game in the SEC Tournament.
4. Each SEC institution is required to use the LV Sports (formerly WSU) bat testing machine for the SEC softball season.

BCT EQUIPMENT TO BE USED

1. The home team's machine is used for testing.
2. If home team does NOT have a working BCT machine but the visiting team does have a working BCT machine – the visiting team will travel with machine to the series and the visiting team's machine shall be used for testing.
3. If neither the home team nor visiting team has a working BCT machine –the home team will make every attempt to borrow a machine.
4. If neither team has a working BCT machine AND the home team cannot borrow a machine – the home team will notify Leslie Claybrook at the SEC office and the visiting team's head coach and SWA (or softball sport administrator) no later than 48 hours prior to the first game of the series. In this instance, bat testing will not take place. However, institutions are reminded that all NCAA softball playing rules (including playing with legal equipment) must be followed.

LOCATION AND TIME OF TESTING

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., conducting and overseeing the meeting and filling out the form).
2. The head coach (or one of the full-time assistant coaches or other staff member appointed by the head coach to represent the team) will be responsible for actually testing his/her 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 SEC.
4. Bat testing must be conducted during a four-hour window prior to the scheduled start time of each game of the series. After the first game of the series, institutions will work together to coordinate a window of time that works best for each team and the home team's game administrator responsible for BCT. In the event of a doubleheader, BCT will only be conducted prior to the first game of the doubleheader.
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. Umpires do not have to be present during testing but should be made aware of when/where testing will take place.
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 SEC staff will purchase each institution's stickers and ship to each head coach prior to the start of SEC 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 SEC 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 SEC office will submit failed bat information to Dee Abrahamson, NCAA Softball Secretary Rules Editor.

SOFTBALL PRE-GAME TIMING PROTOCOL
(EXAMPLE)
UPDATED 11-19-13

1:00 p.m. Start		Time Prior to Game
11:15 A.M.	HOME TEAM 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 WARM-UP (35 MINUTES)	1 HOUR, 8 MINUTES
12:27 P.M.	FIELD PREP (3 MINUTES)	33 MINUTES
12:30 P.M.	HOME TEAM INFIELD (7 MINUTES)	30 MINUTES
12:37 P.M.	VISITING TEAM INFIELD (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.	INTROS (5 MINUTES)	8 MINUTES
12:57 P.M.	NATIONAL ANTHEM & CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH (3 MINUTES)	3 MINUTES
1:00 P.M.	FIRST PITCH PLAY BALL!	

- If possible, institutions should combine field crew prep and umpire meeting.
- As a reminder, intro videos are limited to 60 seconds in length.
- If televised game, media relations and marketing will work with producer to adjust pre-game timing protocol to accommodate timing of requested first pitch. In most cases, the national anthem and intros will be reversed as to allow time to conclude anthem before start of live broadcast.
- 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 coordinator any adjustments to the pre-game protocol.
- If mutually agreed upon, senior day activities may occur prior to the start of intros. The timing sheet will need to be adjusted to account for these activities.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's and women's swimming and diving: Sport Administrator – TBD; Communications – Jill Skotarczak.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

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 Teams.** The first team consists of the top finisher in each event. The second team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event.
2. **All-Freshman Team.** The team consists of any redshirt or true freshman who finishes 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.
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.
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.
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.
7. **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]
8. **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]
9. **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 NCAA competition.
10. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations. The ballot will be provided to coaches following NCAA competition.

11. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
12. **Swimmer of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
13. **Diver of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
14. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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 2015-2016, the coaches committee will include Vanderbilt, Alabama, and Arkansas. Subsequent years will be as follows: Alabama, Arkansas, and Auburn (2016-2017), Arkansas, Auburn, and Florida (2017-2018), and Auburn, Florida, and Georgia (2018-2019). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Coaches Meeting [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in April at the SEC Office. The diving coach for the next year's championship host may also attend.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Vanderbilt serving as the chair for 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Alabama (2016-2017), Arkansas (2017-2018) and Auburn (2018-2019). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

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 member institution having a swimming/diving team shall participate in Conference competition. The Conference office shall schedule these meets. Each institution shall set the dates and times. Score shall be kept during these events.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The home team may dress all eligible student-athletes in uniform, but only 24 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest.

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 2016 Championships will be February 16-20, at the University of Missouri. Future sites of the championship are:

2017	Tennessee
2018	Texas A&M
2019	Georgia

If another institution acquires facilities that meet the minimum hosting specifications set forth in these Commissioner's Regulations, such institution will enter the hosting rotation beginning in 2018 (before any institution in the 5-school rotation repeats as host).

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 (2016 – February 15). 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. 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.

Heats. [NCAA Rule 5.1.5.] 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 and is under separate cover.

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 SEC staff liaison 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 1,000 spectator seats
- Adequate deck space for a minimum of 600 participants and championship staff and officials
- Minimum of eight (8) warm up / cool down lanes
- 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

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The coaches shall select the following head officials: referee, stroke and turn judge, starter and diving referee. The 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).

A panel of seven non-affiliated judges will be assigned to score the diving events. These judges will be selected by the diving coaches. The diving referee shall serve a dual role of referee and as one of the seven judges.

Order of Events. The order of events for trials and finals will be determined at the annual Spring head coaches meeting each year. Men's and women's events will alternate, with the men competing first in the odd years.

Player Pass Gate Admissions. Complimentary admissions will be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. "Hard tickets" may not be issued. The individual using the complimentary admission must present identification to the person supervising the use of the pass list at the admission gate. The individual then will be provided a ticket stub or other identification of a specified reserved seat or seating area or treated as a general-admission ticket holder.

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 only by the coach (or official team representative) by depositing scratch cards in the designated scratch box. A scratch verification form will be provided and must be used. All entries not scratched will become official entries. The scratch box for all swimming events shall open two hours prior to the start of the swimming finals each evening and close one hour prior to the start of the swimming finals. Only the SEC staff liaison will have

access to the scratch box (i.e., sign the scratch receipts, remove the scratches from the box at the deadline, check the scratches and turn them over to the computer operator for entry into the computer).

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 during the fall semester. 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 course of the championship. The order for spectator seating for the 2016 championships is as follows: South Carolina, Missouri, Texas A&M, Tennessee, Arkansas/Vanderbilt, Georgia, LSU, Alabama, Kentucky, Florida, and Auburn.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The squad size limit for the SEC Championships is 22 competitors with a maximum of 19 swimmers.

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. The locations for team seating will rotate by session during the course of the championship. The order for team seating for the 2016 championships is as follows: Kentucky, Alabama, LSU, Georgia, Arkansas/Vanderbilt, Tennessee, Texas A&M, Missouri, South Carolina, Auburn, and Florida.

Athletes should stay in their team section during competition events. No team member shall be allowed behind the blocks during a race.

Tickets. The host institution may decide whether or not to charge for ticketed admission. If an institution chooses to charge for admission, ticket prices shall be set by the host institution, but must be approved by the Conference liaison. 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 amount 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). There will be time trials on Sunday following the championship.

Touch Pads and Electronic Take-Off Pads. NCAA rule 4.14.6. Relay Judging Platforms (RJP's) will be utilized for the Conference Championship.

Uniforms. See General Administration section of Commissioner's Regulations.

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.

2016 SEC Swimming & Diving Competition Schedule

	<i>Tuesday, February 16</i>	<i>Wednesday, February 17</i>	<i>Thursday, February 18</i>	<i>Friday, February 19</i>	<i>Saturday, February 20</i>
PRELIMS	Time Trials (10:00 am start) Men's 1-meter* (11:00 am start) Women's 3-meter* (1:30 pm start)	500 Free (10:00 am start) 200 IM 50 Free Women's 1-meter* (1:00 pm start)	400 IM (10:00 am start) 100 Fly 200 Free Men's 3-meter* (1:00 pm start)	200 Fly (10:00 am start) 100 Back 100 Breast Women's Platform* (1:00 pm start)	200 Back (10:00 am start) 100 Free 200 Breast Men's Platform* (1:00 pm start) 1650 Free (start TBD)
FINALS	Men's 1-meter* (5:30 pm start) 200 Medley Relay (6:15 pm start) Women's 3-meter* (6:30 pm start) 800 Free Relay (7:15 pm start)	500 Free (6:00 pm start) 200 IM 50 Free Women's 1-meter* 200 Free Relay	400 IM (6:00 pm start) 100 Fly Men's 3-meter* 200 Free	200 Fly (6:00 pm start) 100 Back 100 Breast Women's Platform* 400 Medley Relay	1650 Free (6:00 pm start) 200 Back 100 Free 200 Breast Men's Platform* 400 Free Relay

***Note: In events where men's and women's teams are denoted as competing separately, women's events will take place first in odd years and men's events will take place first in even years.**

MEN'S TENNIS

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's tennis: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

REGULAR SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. [SEC Bylaw 17.30] 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. [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 Teams.** The recipients will be determined by a combination of ITA rankings and vote of the head coaches as set out in this subsection. An online nomination form (links provided by the Conference office) will be due the Monday morning before 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, those with good doubles records, etc. There are no criteria for nominating a player. The nomination form will include information on the player's singles and doubles records, and space for supporting information (e.g., wins over ranked opponents, win streaks, etc.). If a school declines to submit any nominations, it must inform the SEC media contact via email.

First-team will be a combination of ITA rankings and a vote of the coaches. The Conference office will acquire the most updated ITA rankings. The top ranked doubles team and the top 8 ranked singles players (not part of the top doubles team) will be automatically named. 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 Tuesday after the SEC tournament. There will be a mandatory coach's call on Wednesday for the coaches to discuss their own nominees. The coaches must submit their online ballots by the following morning (Thursday) and teams will be announced later Thursday afternoon. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will be no distinction between singles and doubles.

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. **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.
6. **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.

7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
9. **Freshman of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Meeting. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the SEC Office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Vanderbilt serving as the chair in 2015-2016. Subsequent years will be as follows: Alabama (2016-17); Arkansas (2017-18), and Auburn (2018-19). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

Coaching. ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. For the avoidance of doubt, a coach may coach a player during the 20 seconds between points and during the 90-second change of sides. However, conversations with players may not impede the continuous-play rule.

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 Southeastern Conference 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 SEC, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

Inclement Weather. Institutions shall play all SEC 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.

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.

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**

An SEC 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. **Postponed Matches**

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.

In the event that 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.

In the event that 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.

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. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site.

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.**

Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the SEC staff liaison by Tuesday at noon CST each week of SEC 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.)

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 SEC staff liaison by 6 p.m. CST each Tuesday. The SEC staff liaison 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 10 a.m. CST each Wednesday and make a ruling by Wednesday afternoon. Any coach whose line-up is

being protested may participate on the call. If there is a conflict in regards to the timing of the weekly protest call (e.g., travel to a Thursday match), the protest call will move to 6 p.m. CT on Tuesday. Institutions must inform the Conference office of the conflict by the end of the day on the Sunday prior to the call.

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 more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.

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) in their line-up from the last SEC match.

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. If more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.

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 in the event that 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, Friday, and Saturday matches between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule all Sunday 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]

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion will be the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.1] 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 SEC staff liaison 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. The referee will make the decision if a match should be played indoors in accordance with SEC and ITA rules. It is the duty of the head referee to make this assignment, upon request.

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.

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 serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season, and their decision is final. The committee members for 2015-16 will be Texas A&M (chair), Vanderbilt, Alabama, Arkansas, and Auburn. There must always be a minimum of five coaches on a protest call. If one or more members of the current committee is involved in a protest or cannot otherwise participate, then other coaches must fill-in (in alphabetical order by school).

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

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. Travel partners may reschedule their match within the SEC 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 participating in split weekend competition (*i.e.*, competition scheduled on the same date and at the same location as a SEC women’s tennis contest) may reschedule their match within the SEC 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.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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.

Championship Committee. The Championship Committee will consist of the first three coaches alphabetically on the regular-season Protest Committee.

Dates and Sites. The tournament will be held three weeks (two weeks effective 2017) prior to the start of the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. The 2016 tournament dates are April 20-24, and will be hosted by the University of South Carolina. [Revised 12/15/15] Future sites of the championship are:

2017	Tennessee	2021	Georgia	2025	Ole Miss
2018	Alabama	2022	Auburn	2026	South Carolina
2019	Florida	2023	Kentucky	2027	Mississippi State
2020	Arkansas	2024	LSU		

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 SEC 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 staff and is under separate cover.

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 Tournament Director, the Head Referee, and the Conference staff liaison.

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 in order to discuss and vote on protests. For the avoidance of doubt, 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 Line-up Protest 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. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

1. **Head Referee.** The head referee will be selected by a majority vote of the coaches during the annual coaches' meeting each year 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 SEC, 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 liaison, 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, SEC, NCAA, and ITA rules and regulations, and shall have the authority to enforce the ITA point-penalty system.

Penalties. The Southeastern 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 1-13, regardless of division, based on conference match winning percentage. The teams seeded number 12 and 13 will play on Wednesday and the winning team will be the number 12 seed in the tournament. 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 of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 13 team, if necessary);
 - C. Most recent ITA rankings; and
 - D. Coin toss or draw by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 10.

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 or not 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 liaison. 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 amount 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. (See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations)

Warm-Up. Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for women's tennis: Sport Administrator – Brett Thompson; Communications – Tammy Wilson.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. [SEC Bylaw 17.30] 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. [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 Teams.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An online nomination form (links provided by the Conference office) will be due on the Monday morning before the SEC Tournament. Coaches shall nominate only players from their own teams and should nominate all players they believe deserve the honor, including ranked players, those with good doubles records, etc. There are no criteria for nominating a player. The nomination form will include information on the players' SEC singles and doubles records, and space for additional supporting information (e.g., wins over ranked SEC opponents, win streaks, etc.). If a school declines to submit any nominees, it must inform the SEC media contact via email.

A link to the online ballot with 12 first-team and 12 second-team spots, as well as nomination information, will be sent to coaches the Monday after the SEC Championship, and on Tuesday there will be a conference call for coaches to discuss their own nominees. The ballot will be due the following morning (Wednesday), and teams will be announced later Wednesday afternoon. Both the first and second teams will be based solely on a vote of the coaches. Coaches will vote on one ballot for both first and second teams. A player may only be named once and to one team. There will not be a distinction between singles and doubles.

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. **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.
6. **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.
7. **Community Service Team.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

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

Coaches Meeting. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting in November at the SEC Office.

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with South Carolina serving as the chair for 2015-16. Subsequent years will be as follows: LSU (2016-17), Vanderbilt (2017-18), and Tennessee (2018-19). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office. Coaches may not serve as chair during their first year as an SEC coach.

Coaching. ITA Regulation I.J. (Coaching) governs the coaching of players during a match. For the avoidance of doubt, a coach may coach a player during the 20 seconds between points and during the 90-second change of sides. However, conversations with players may not impede the continuous-play rule.

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 Southeastern Conference 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 used in the NCAA Championships, except in the event of inclement weather when institutions 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, once a team clinches four points, the referee shall declare the clinching team the team match winner. However, the 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.

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 SEC, NCAA and ITA rules and expectations regarding crowd control, facility restrictions, and other game management issues of importance.

Inclement Weather. Institutions shall play all SEC 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.

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.

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**

An SEC 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. **Postponed Matches**

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.

In the event that 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.

In the event that 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.

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. Institutions may not resume matches at the Conference Tournament site.

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 substitutions.

1. **Initial Exchange and Protest of Line-ups.** Coaches shall e-mail their entire singles and doubles line-ups to the SEC staff liaison by Tuesday at 6 p.m. ET each week of SEC 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).

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 SEC staff liaison (and copy all head coaches) by 10 p.m. ET each Tuesday. The SEC staff liaison 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 noon ET each Wednesday and make a ruling by Wednesday afternoon. Any coach whose line-up is being protested may participate on the call.

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 more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.
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) in their line-up from the last SEC match.
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. If more time is needed following doubles to assess an injury, then this will be allowed as long as the time is reasonable. If more than two minutes passes, then the opposing team is allowed ten minutes to adjust if a change is made in the line-up.
7. **Double Substitutions.** As it relates to doubles substitutions, if a change is necessary after a line-up has been declared to the SEC office, the substitution must be a direct line substitution. The opposing coach may move the new doubles team up one spot or down two spots.
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 in the event that 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.
10. **Postponed/Suspended Matches.** The lineup used for s 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 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. local time. Institutions shall schedule Friday matches between 11 a.m. and 6 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]

NCAA Automatic Qualification. The Conference tournament champion will be the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Championship.

Officials. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.1] 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. 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 SEC staff liaison 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. The referee will make the decision if a match should be played indoors in accordance with SEC and ITA rules. It is the duty of the head referee to make this assignment, upon request.

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.

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 serve to hear all line-up protests during the regular season their decision is final. Each institution’s head coach shall serve on the Protest Committee. The Protest Committee chair for 2015-2016 shall be the head coach from the University of South Carolina (the institution that hosted the previous championship). 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.

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

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 liaison. 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 SEC 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 participating in split weekend competition (*i.e.*, competition scheduled on the same date and at the same location as a SEC men's tennis contest) may reschedule their match within the SEC 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.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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 SEC staff liaison.

Dates and Sites. The tournament will be held three weeks prior to the start of the NCAA Championships on Wednesday through Sunday. The 2016 SEC Tournament will be held April 20-24, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana hosted by the University South Carolina. The order of rotation for hosting the SEC Tournament shall be:

2017	Vanderbilt	2021	Florida	2025	Kentucky
2018	Tennessee	2022	Arkansas	2026	LSU
2019	Texas A&M	2023	Georgia	2027	Missouri
2020	Alabama	2024	Auburn		

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 consists 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 staff and is under separate cover.

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 with regard to 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 in order to discuss and vote on protests. For the avoidance of doubt, 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 Line-up Protest 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. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2]

1. **Head Referee.** The head referee will be selected by a majority vote of the coaches during the annual coaches' meeting each year 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 SEC, 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 will be recommended by the host institution and approved by the head referee. The deputy referee must be a certified USTA official, and his or her duties shall be as directed by the head referee.
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, SEC, 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.

Penalties. The Southeastern 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 1-14, regardless of division. 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 record of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 14 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 record of tied teams versus the No. 1 team (and proceeding down through the No. 14 team, if necessary);
 - C. Most recent ITA rankings; and
 - D. Coin toss or draw by the Commissioner or his or her designee.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 10.

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 or not 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 liaison. 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 amount 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. (See the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations).

Warm-Up. Players will have a minimum of 20 minutes to warm-up when changing playing surfaces. The referee is the timekeeper.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's and women's indoor track and field: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Sean Cartell.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. [SEC Bylaw 17.30] 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. [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 Teams.** The first team consists of the top finishers in each event. The second team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event. And for award purposes, ties are not broken.
2. **All-Freshman Teams.** The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the highest freshman (true or redshirt) finisher in each event, excluding relays, and ties are not broken.
3. **Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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. **Field Event 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 after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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 Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. **Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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. **Freshman Field Event 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 after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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.
7. **Coaches of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
8. **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.

9. **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.
10. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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. For 2015-2016, the coaches committee will include: Auburn, LSU, Arkansas (2015-2016). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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

Coaches Meeting Chair. The chair of the annual coaches meeting will be an alphabetical rotation with Auburn serving as the chair for 2014-2015. Subsequent years will be as follows: Florida (2015-2016), Georgia (2016-2017), and Kentucky (2017-2018). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. The indoor track and field season shall begin with the first scheduled meet and continue until the last regularly-scheduled indoor meet, or through the NCAA Championships, whichever is later.

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

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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.

Championships Committee. This committee shall be composed of the chairs of the men's and women's coaches committees, plus a representative from the host institution (either the meet director or head coach), the head referee and the SEC liaison. Its duties shall include:

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

Credentials. [SEC Bylaw 12.3.1] 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. The 2016 SEC Championships will be held February 26-27, in Fayetteville, Arkansas hosted by the University of Arkansas. The championships will alternate between flat and banked tracks each year. If other

institutions develop adequate facilities to host the championships, the meet will also rotate to include those institutions. The order of rotation for hosting future SEC Indoor Championships will be:

2017 Vanderbilt
2018 Texas A&M

Declarations and Rosters. 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. 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. [Revised: 11/18/15]

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 Information. All entries for the SEC 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. If the NCAA converts all times to a flat 200-meter track, the same conversion will be used.)

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.

Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. [Revised: 11/18/15]

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. 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 SEC Championships, the host institution must meet the foul camera protocols set out in Supplement A.

Heating. Setting heats will be done by, and in the presence of, the championships committee and will be administered in accordance with the guidelines listed for each event. The committee shall supervise the 200-meter and 400-meter draws, including modifying the running events schedule based on the number of declared entrants in those races. 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 SEC parameters for heating should be programmed into the computer. Heat sheets will only be provided the night before the championships at the coaches meeting and will include declared and seeded times.

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: referee for track events; referee for field events; starter; three-person jury of appeals; and two finish evaluators. In addition, the director will obtain the remaining officials needed to conduct the meet. The director will submit names of referees and the jury of appeals for approval at the annual head coaches meeting;
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the championships; and
- Oversee the support staff in the conduct of the SEC 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 SEC office, including the SEC website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following each day of competition and send to the SEC website;
- At the end of the championships, provide copies of the final results to the SEC 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. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The host institution is responsible for training all officials in accordance with SEC and NCAA rules. The Conference office shall maintain a working list of head officials from which the host institution must select the officials for the championships.

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.

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. 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.

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. If an athlete is disqualified, the head coach, or his/her representative, must be notified immediately by the meet referee of the disqualification. All protests must be filled (at the protest table) at once and no later than 30 minutes after notification or after the event results are posted, whichever is earlier. Inquiries may be made by a competitor to the head official for the event, but competitor's coach must file the official protest at the protest table within 30 minutes. All protests will be submitted to the referee, who will render a decision. Decisions of the jury of appeals shall be final. 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.

Video Evidence in Protests. For future championships, the only official video permissible for use as evidence in protests shall be television footage and/or video supplied by the host institution, as determined by the host institution. Coaches must inform the head referee of their desire to access available video footage within the permissible 30 minutes. Further, coaches may request to review a picture or video after results are announced and before the protest is filed. [NOTE: Due to technical constraints, it may not always be possible to view a picture or video before the 30-minute protest window closes.]

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. In all events, one more competitor than can score shall advance to the finals, if possible.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 27.

Tickets. Each head coach may receive eight tickets, each assistant coach may receive four, and student-athletes may receive four player/guest admissions. The host institution may decide whether or not 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 SEC 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 amount of tickets.

Uniforms. (See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations) All team members must wear the proper uniform of the institution they represent.

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

FOUL CAMERA PROTOCOLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Cameras

- **Camera Requirements.** If cameras will be used, they must be operational for all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. Meet management may not use cameras unless they will be used in all events.
- **Technical Requirements.** Enough cameras must be available to monitor all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. There must be two (2) memory cards available for each competition camera. Cameras must be high speed cameras and must be capable of shooting at 120 fps. Cameras with the capability of starting/stopping via remote control are greatly preferred. If cameras do not have this capability, then a minimum of three (3) memory cards must be available for each competition camera. The number of cameras to be used and camera positioning for each event are as follows.
 - **Javelin.** Two (2) cameras are suggested, and must be positioned at opposite ends of the foul arc. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
 - **Shot Put.** Two (2) cameras are required, positioned at opposite ends of and just behind the toeboard.
 - **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 and 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.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for men's and women's outdoor track and field: Sport Administrator – John Gibson; Communications – Sean Cartell.

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Administration. [SEC Bylaw 17.30] 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. [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 Teams.** The first team consists of the top finisher in each event. The second team consists of the second and third place finishers in each event. And for award purposes, ties are not broken.
2. **All-Freshman Teams.** The all-freshman team (one men's and one women's) consists of the highest freshman (true or redshirt) finisher in each event, excluding relays, and ties are not broken.
3. **Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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. **Field Event 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 after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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 Runners of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by vote of the head coaches. An SEC staff member will distribute nomination forms to coaches after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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. **Freshman Field Event 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 after the SEC Championships. Nominations will be returned to the SEC 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.
7. **Coaches of the Year.** The recipients will be determined by a vote of the head coaches.
8. **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.

9. **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.
10. **Track/Field Athletes of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.
11. **Freshmen of the Week.** See General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Coaches Committee. [SEC Bylaw 21.9] 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. For 2015-2016, the coaches committee will include Auburn, LSU, and Alabama. A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

Coaches Meeting. [SEC Bylaw 21.8] Each head track and field coach is required to attend the annual coaches meeting held in September 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) and Kentucky (2018-2019). A chart listing the complete rotation will be maintained by the Conference office.

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

Regular-Season Competition/Scheduling. The outdoor track and field season shall begin with the first scheduled meet and continue until the last regularly-scheduled outdoor meet, or through the NCAA Championships, whichever is later.

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.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

Championships Committee. This committee shall be composed of the chairs of the men's and women's coaches committees, plus a representative of the host institution (either the meet director or head coach), the head referee and the SEC liaison. Its duties shall include:

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

Credentials. [SEC Bylaw 12.3.1] 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. The 2016 SEC Championships will be held May 12-14, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama hosted by the University of Alabama. (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 (Thursday through Saturday) meet. The order of rotation for hosting future SEC Outdoor Championships shall be:

2016	Alabama	2020	Texas A&M	2024	Georgia
2017	South Carolina	2021	Ole Miss	2025	Auburn
2018	Vanderbilt	2022	Florida		
2019	Tennessee	2023	Arkansas		

Declarations and Rosters. 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. 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. [Revised: 11/18/15]

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. Performances used on the entry forms must have been achieved during the current outdoor season. No indoor or relay performances will be accepted. If an athlete has a performance standard for the event, it must be used. If there is no time standard available for seeding, the participant will be placed at the bottom of the list. Times used to declare athletes into the championships may only have wind readings of 4.0 and below. All competitors, including those in field events, must have a competition number. Every competitor must also have his/her year of eligibility listed on the entry forms.

Once declarations are made final, no student-athletes may be added to the competition or entered into any additional events. [Revised: 11/18/15]

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. 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 SEC Championships, the host institution must meet the foul camera protocols set out in Supplement A.

Heating. Setting heats will be done by, and in the presence of, the championships committee and will be administered in accordance with the guidelines listed for each event. The committee shall supervise the 200-meter and 400-meter draws, including modifying the running events schedule based on the number of declared entrants in those races. 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 SEC parameters for heating should be programmed into the computer. Heat sheets will only be provided the night before the competition at the coaches meeting and will include declared and seeded times.

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: referee for track events; referee for field events; starter; three-person jury of appeals; and two finish evaluators. In addition, the director will obtain the remaining officials needed to conduct the meet. The director will submit names of referees and the jury of appeals for approval at the annual head coaches meeting;
- Serve as the administrator and supervisor of the championships; and
- Oversee the support staff in the conduct of the SEC 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 SEC office, including the SEC website;
- Write a general, unbiased summary following each day of competition and send to the SEC website;
- At the end of the championships, provide copies of the final results to the SEC 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. [SEC Bylaw 30.20.2.2] The host institution is responsible for training all officials in accordance with SEC and NCAA rules. The Conference office shall maintain a working list of head officials from which the host institution must select the officials for the championships.

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.

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 women first on the first day of competition and men first on the second day of 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.

Protests. If an athlete is disqualified, the head coach, or his/her representative, must be notified immediately by the meet referee of the disqualification. All protests must be filed (at the protest table) at once and no later than 30 minutes after notification or after the event results are posted, whichever is earlier. Inquiries may be made by a competitor to the head official for the event, but competitor's coach must file the official protest at the protest table within 30 minutes. All protests will be submitted to the referee, who will render a decision. Decisions of the jury of appeals shall be final. 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.

Video Evidence in Protests. For future championships, the only official video permissible for use as evidence in protests shall be television footage and/or video supplied by the host institution, as determined by the host institution. Coaches must inform the head referee of their desire to access available video footage within the permissible 30 minutes. Further, coaches may request to review a picture or video after results are announced and before the protest is filed. [NOTE: Due to technical constraints, it may not always be possible to view a picture or video before the 30-minute protest window closes.]

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. In all events, one more competitor than can score shall advance to the finals, if possible.

Squad Size. [See Supplement D of the General Administration section] The SEC Championship squad size is 30.

Tickets. Each head coach may receive eight tickets, each assistant coach may receive four, and student-athletes may receive four player/guest admissions. The host institution may decide whether or not 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 SEC 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 amount of tickets.

Uniforms. (See the General Administration section of the Commissioner's Regulations.) All team members must wear the proper uniform of the institution they represent.

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

FOUL CAMERA PROTOCOLS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Cameras

- **Camera Requirements.** If cameras will be used, they must be operational for all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. Meet management may not use cameras unless they will be used in all events.
- **Technical Requirements.** Enough cameras must be available to monitor all throw and horizontal jump competitions, including Combined Event competition. There must be two (2) memory cards available for each competition camera. Cameras must be high speed cameras and must be capable of shooting at 120 fps. Cameras with the capability of starting/stopping via remote control are greatly preferred. If cameras do not have this capability, then a minimum of three (3) memory cards must be available for each competition camera. The number of cameras to be used and camera positioning for each event are as follows.
 - **Javelin.** Two (2) cameras are suggested, and must be positioned at opposite ends of the foul arc. A minimum of one (1) camera is required.
 - **Shot Put.** Two (2) cameras are required, positioned at opposite ends of and just behind the toeboard.
 - **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 and 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 competitors 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.

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. 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 17 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. A visiting team is limited to a travel squad size of 17 eligible student-athletes. [Revised 8/8/15]

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 1st 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.