

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 1

Name, Purposes and Fundamental Policy

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***1.1 NAME**

The name of this Association shall be the Southeastern Conference.

***1.2 PURPOSES**

The purpose and mission of the Southeastern Conference is educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Intercollegiate athletics programs provide fundamental lessons in leadership and teamwork, and about winning and losing, that have an irreplaceable role in the greater world of business, government, military, and academic pursuits. In no event shall the Conference engage in any activity or take any action inconsistent with its educational purpose and mission, and nothing in this Constitution, or in the Bylaws or Regulations, shall authorize any such activity or action.

To further its educational purpose and mission, the Conference shall direct and organize interscholastic athletic competitions, conduct tournaments, and prescribe eligibility rules for contestants. The Conference shall also facilitate and assist its member institutions in maintaining intercollegiate athletic programs compatible with the highest standards of education and competitive sports. Through the orderly enactment and enforcement of legislation, the Conference aims:

- (a) To encourage sound academic practices for student-athletes;
- (b) To foster strong competition among the teams of its member institutions in a broad spectrum of amateur sports and championships;
- (c) To assure proper emphasis on the funding of athletic activities;
- (d) To stimulate good sportsmanship;
- (e) To provide leadership and a voice in the development of public attitudes toward intercollegiate sports generally; and
- (f) To address the future needs of athletics in a spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit of the member institutions and their student-athletes. *[Adopted 6/15/06]*

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 2

Principles for the Conduct of Intercollegiate Athletics

The Southeastern Conference subscribes to the principles for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics set forth in Article 2 of the NCAA Constitution and assists its member institutions in promoting these principles.

SEC Membership

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3.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLE

The SEC is both a competitive body and a legislative body, as defined in NCAA Articles 3.02.1 and 3.02.2.

3.1 MEMBERSHIP, TERMINATION, SUSPENSION AND DUES

***3.1.1 Number of Members.** The number of members of the Conference shall be set by the Chief Executive Officers. [Revised 5/30/91]

***3.1.2 Granting of Membership.** Membership may be granted by invitation of the Conference at a regular or called meeting. A three-fourths vote of members is required to extend an invitation for membership. [Revised 5/30/91]

***3.1.3 Suspension of Membership.** Two-thirds of the membership may vote to suspend a member at any time, either indefinitely or for a stated period, for any conduct deemed to be incompatible with membership.

***3.1.4 Termination of Membership.** Membership may be terminated at a regular meeting, either by resignation or by action of the Conference through a vote of two-thirds of the members. If termination is voted by the Conference, the Conference shall determine the effective date of the termination.

***3.1.5 Dues.** The annual dues of each member of the Conference shall be fifty dollars, payable each year on request by the Commissioner.

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 4

Organization

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4.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

***4.1.1 Powers and Duties.** The powers and duties of the Chief Executive Officers shall be as follows:

- (a) The Chief Executive Officers may place on probation, until the next regular meeting of the Conference, any member who violates any rule, regulation, or policy of the Conference;
- (b) The Chief Executive Officers may prohibit any team or teams from being recognized as Conference champions;
- (c) The Chief Executive Officers may prohibit any team or teams from participating in Conference sponsored meets or tournaments;
- (d) The Chief Executive Officers may prohibit any team or teams from participating in pre-season or post-season athletic events;
- (e) The Chief Executive Officers may prohibit any institution from participating in the distribution of Conference funds (bowl, television or tournament);
- (f) The Chief Executive Officers may impose any other penalty which they consider appropriate; and
- (g) In all disciplinary actions, the institution charged with a violation shall have due notice and an opportunity to be heard before the Chief Executive Officers.

4.2 CONFERENCE OFFICERS

4.2.1 Composition. The officers of the Conference shall be a President and a Vice-President, who shall be executive heads of member institutions, and a Secretary who shall be a Faculty Athletics Representative.

***4.2.2 Election/Term of Office.** Officers shall be elected at the regular meeting of the Conference each calendar year, to take office immediately. They shall be elected to serve for a period of one year, and the President and Vice-President shall not be eligible to serve for more than two terms in succession. The Secretary shall serve unlimited terms if so elected. Each officer shall be elected from a different institution. *[Revised 5/30/91]*

4.2.3 Powers and Duties.

4.2.3.1 President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee; shall issue the call for all special meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, stating the business to be transacted; shall be the official representative of the Conference in all its business and other relations with persons or organizations concerning intercollegiate athletics; and, in cooperation with the Commissioner, shall see that all the rules and regulations are observed by all members.

4.2.3.2 Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the latter's absence or disability and shall assist the President in the performance of Conference business when called upon to do so.

4.2.3.3 Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee.

4.3 COMMITTEES

4.3.1 Executive Committee. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Conference and four elected members chosen at the regular meeting each year. The four elected members shall be from different institutions and from institutions other than those of the officers. The four elected members shall serve staggered terms of no more than three years with at least one member rotating off each year. One and only one of the elected members shall be a director of athletics. One and only one of the elected members shall be a Senior Woman Administrator or shall have primary responsibility for the administration of women's athletics.

4.3.1.1 Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

- (a) It shall meet at the regular meeting of the Conference and at other times on the call of the President;
- (b) It shall fix the times and the places of the regular meeting of the Conference;
- (c) It shall hear the appeals made on rulings and penalties imposed by the Commissioner;
- (d) It shall fill any vacancy which may occur in any office or in its own membership;
- (e) It shall determine and direct the policy of the Conference on any matter which may arise when the Conference is not in session, if such matter cannot be disposed of satisfactorily by an existing rule or precedent;
- (f) Any member of the Committee connected with an institution directly interested in any matter submitted to the Committee or under consideration by it shall be disqualified to sit during consideration of the matter, and it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to appoint a disinterested representative to act in place of the party disqualified;
- (g) A quorum shall consist of not less than four members, and all members shall have a vote. In disciplinary matters, a vote of four members is required to penalize;
- (h) Open meetings may be held, but all business shall be transacted in executive session;
- (i) It shall approve all contracts to which the Conference is a party;
- (j) It shall formulate and enforce such regulations governing the Office of Commissioner as may be deemed necessary, in addition to those matters specifically covered by the articles in this manual;
- (k) It shall approve the annual operating budget of the Conference, and shall oversee all financial and fiscal affairs of the Conference as administered by the Commissioner;
- (l) It shall approve Commissioner's Regulations for officiating and for championship meets and tournaments; and
- (m) The approval of the Executive Committee shall be sought in all other instances specified in other articles of this manual.

***4.3.2 Special Committees.** There shall be such other regular or special committees as may be created from time to time.

*4.4 COMMISSIONER

There shall be a Commissioner who shall be the chief administrative officer of the Conference.

4.4.1 Election. The Commissioner shall be elected by a majority vote of the Chief Executive Officers at a regular or called

meeting for a term that is mutually agreed to, not to exceed six years. *[Revised 5/30/91]*

4.4.2 Authority, Duties and Responsibilities.

- (a) The Commissioner shall be charged with the duty of administering and enforcing the legislation of the Conference, and shall be vested with broad discretionary authority to carry out the duties of the office, including the assessment of penalties outlined in Article 4.4.3. Subject only to the review procedures established therein, the Commissioner shall have the duty to inspect, investigate and determine violations, and the authority to impose penalties and sanctions against member institutions, including their athletic staff members and their student-athletes, for practices and conduct which violate the spirit, as well as the letter of the Conference rules and regulations;
- (b) The Commissioner shall have jurisdiction on all questions of student eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition and may appoint an advisory committee on eligibility and infractions and base actions on consultations with this committee;
- (c) The Commissioner is authorized to issue such interpretations, rules, regulations, memoranda, instructions, forms and procedures as may be necessary in the performance of these duties, and in standardizing practices of the Conference;
- (d) The Commissioner shall present an operating budget to the Executive Committee each year for approval; shall act as custodian of all Conference funds and is authorized to secure adequate bond to insure the performance of this action; and shall collect the annual dues from all members;
- (e) The Commissioner shall furnish each member with copies of the Constitution and Bylaws annually and shall provide to all members copies of the minutes of all meetings of the Conference and Executive Committee as soon after the meetings as may be practicable;
- (f) The Commissioner shall arrange suitable accommodations for all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, and attend to such other details with reference thereto as may be necessary; and
- (g) With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Commissioner may appoint and employ such personnel as may be necessary to the performance of the functions of the Conference office.

4.4.3 Authority for Penalties. Particular authority of the Commissioner with respect to penalties and sanctions is as follows:

- (a) Any member institution which violates any of the provisions of the Bylaws, rules or regulations of the Conference shall be subject to a fine imposed at the discretion of the Commissioner for each such violation. Suspension of any of the penalties authorized to be imposed may be recommended by the Commissioner to the Executive Committee. *[Revised 6/1/02]*
- (b) The Commissioner shall have the duty to investigate and the authority to determine violations and to impose penalties and sanctions against member institutions, athletics staff members, coaches and student-athletes for practices and conduct which violate the spirit as well as letter of the Conference rules and regulations. Among the disciplinary measures, singly or in combination, that may be adopted by the Commissioner are:
 - (1) Suspension from contests or other athletically related activities;
 - (2) Limiting coaching duties, including those related to recruiting; and
 - (3) Public or private reprimands.
- (c) Penalties imposed by the Commissioner shall become effective immediately upon notification of the Athletic Director and the Chief Executive Officer of the member institution involved. The institution has a right to appeal the decision of the Commissioner to the Executive Committee and from the Executive Committee to the Conference. The penalty, however, shall remain in effect until and unless it is set aside by the Executive Committee or by the Conference.
- (d) When it comes to the attention of the Commissioner that a student-athlete may be guilty of committing a flagrant, disqualifying foul on the field of play or at the contest site, or may be guilty of any unsportsmanlike act, the Commissioner shall make an investigation to determine the facts. This investigation shall include a study of the contest films, reports of contest officials, and any other available and relevant information. The Commissioner may

appoint a board to aid in evaluating the facts. If, after reviewing the evidence, the Commissioner should determine that a penalty is in order, the student-athlete may be ruled ineligible permanently or for a fixed period, or the Commissioner may, with or without publicity, warn the student-athlete and the student-athlete's coach and institution that, if there is a repetition of such conduct, the student-athlete could be ruled ineligible permanently and the penalty imposed publicly.

- (e) Each head coach in the Southeastern Conference is required to attend the following as appropriate for their sport:
- (1) Annual Coaches Meeting;
 - (2) January Meeting of Head Football Coaches;
 - (3) April Meeting of Head Men's Basketball Coaches;
 - (4) Press Conferences at Conference Championships;
 - (5) Coaches Luncheon at SEC Football Championship; and
 - (6) Conference Media Day Event

Should a coach not attend any of the events listed above, without the prior approval of the Commissioner, the institution is subject to a \$10,000 fine payable to the Southeastern Conference. [*Adopted 6/4/04; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009;*]

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*5.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLE

5.01.1 Governance. The Conference shall be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws, and by legislation adopted from time to time.

5.01.2 Legislative Authority. All sports sponsored by members of the Southeastern Conference shall be subject to the applicable academic provisions of the Conference’s Constitution and Bylaws, including those sports in which the SEC does not sponsor a championship. *[Revised 5/30/03 effective for student-athletes first entering an SEC institution on or after August 1, 2003]*

5.02 DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATIONS

5.02.1 Legislative Provisions.

5.02.1.1 Dominant. A dominant provision is a regulation that is of sufficient importance to the entire membership that it requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the Conference in good standing. Dominant provisions are identified in this manual by an asterisk (*).

5.02.1.2 General. A general provision is a regulation that requires a majority vote of the members of the Conference present and in good standing. All provisions which do not have an asterisk are general provisions.

5.1 MEETINGS

5.1.1 Regular Meeting. The Conference shall hold one regular meeting each calendar year. This meeting shall be held in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Directors of Athletics. The exact time and place shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

5.1.2 Called Meetings by Executive Committee. Called meetings of the Conference may be held at such times and places as may be determined by the Executive Committee for the transaction of any business not restricted to regular meetings.

5.1.3 Called Meeting by Membership. Upon the written request of at least a majority of all members of the Conference, the Chief Executive Officer shall call a meeting of the Conference for the transaction of any business not restricted to regular meetings.

5.1.4 Nature of all Meetings. All meetings of the Conference shall be transacted in executive session.

5.2 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

5.2.1 Representatives. For the purpose of transacting official business with a member, the officers of the Conference shall recognize only the Chief Executive Officer of the institution, or a person from that institution designated by the Chief Executive.

5.2.2 Official Business. At the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or the Executive Committee, Conference business

may be conducted by correspondence or by telephone.

5.2.3 Quorum. A majority of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at a regular meeting and at all called meetings for the purpose of transacting any business, except where a greater vote is required, in which case the number of the vote shall constitute the quorum.

5.2.4 Parliamentary Procedure. The parliamentary procedure of the Conference shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

5.2.5 Order of Business. The usual order of business at official meetings shall be as follows:

- (a) Call to Order;
- (b) Roll Call;
- (c) Announcement of Appointments of Nominating and Auditing Committees;
- (d) Report of Secretary;
- (e) Report of President;
- (f) Report of Commissioner;
- (g) Reports of Regular Committees;
- (h) Reports of Special Committees;
- (i) Consideration of Proposed Amendments;
- (j) Other Business;
- (k) Report of Auditing Committee;
- (l) Report of Nominating Committee;
- (m) Election of Officers;
- (n) Announcement of Committee Appointments; and
- (o) Adjournment.

***5.2.6 Voting.** Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is forbidden.

5.3 AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION

5.3.1 Amendment Process.

***5.3.1.1 Amendment.** The provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only at a regular or called meeting of the Conference. Amendments shall have been submitted to all members in writing by the Commissioner not less than three weeks before the meeting.

***5.3.1.2 Amendment to Amendment.** A proposed amendment to a provision of the Constitution or Bylaws may be amended at any annual or called meeting.

***5.3.1.3 Voting Requirements.** An amendment or amendment to amendment to a dominant provision (denoted by an asterisk in the margin of this manual) requires a two-thirds vote of the members of the Conference in good standing. All others require a majority vote.

***5.3.1.4 Effective Date.** All amendments shall become effective immediately unless a different date is specified.

***5.3.2 Suspension Process.** Suspension of any dominant provision requires a unanimous vote of the members. Suspension of a general provision requires a two-thirds vote of the members. Such suspension shall not continue beyond the next regular or called meeting if enacted between meetings.

Institutional Control and Responsibility

6.1 Institutional Responsibility 10

***6.1 INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chief Executive Officer of each member of the Conference is charged with full responsibility for enforcing at the respective institution all rules and regulations enacted by the Conference for the control of intercollegiate athletics.

BYLAW, ARTICLE 10

Ethical Conduct (Code of Ethics)

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The Southeastern Conference embraces the principles of ethical conduct stated in the NCAA Manual.

10.1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The members of the Southeastern Conference subscribe to the principle that intercollegiate athletics is a legitimate and important part of higher education, is regarded as a significant part of the university culture, and shall be administered and conducted in a manner consistent with the institution's educational policies. It is the function of the Conference to encourage intercollegiate athletics on an amateur basis with effective institutional control and to establish and promote the highest possible standards of personal conduct by all those who administer and participate in the events that provide the competitive experience.

Therefore, the Southeastern Conference sets forth this code to maintain intercollegiate athletics in harmony with the essential educational purposes of the institution. A spirit of mutual trust and cooperation is fundamental to the successful application of the rules of the Conference and this code of ethical behavior.

10.1.2 Each coach shall annually certify his/her understanding of the principles set forth in this bylaw and the SEC Code of Ethics. Failure to execute certification of the Code of Ethics may subject the individual to sanctions from the Conference Commissioner. *[Revised 6/1/96]*

10.2 RECRUITING

10.2.1 Coaches shall observe and promote the regulations of the Conference and the NCAA and are accountable for the highest standards of honesty and integrity in order to provide a fair and equitable opportunity for each prospective student-athlete to make an honest commitment to the university of his/her choice.

10.2.2 The right of a prospective student-athlete to obtain accurate information to aid in the decision process must be respected. Thus, no coach shall provide false or misleading information, or offer inducements that are violations of the regulations of their institution, the Southeastern Conference or the NCAA.

10.2.3 Coaches and other university personnel shall advocate the positive advantages and attributes of their university and its intercollegiate athletics program and shall avoid making any derogatory statements concerning another member institution's athletics program, facilities or educational opportunities.

10.2.4 Coaches shall strictly adhere to all applicable rules related to the involvement of alumni and boosters in the recruiting of prospective student-athletes.

10.2.5 A request by a prospective student-athlete to be subjected to no further recruitment shall be respected.

10.3 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

10.3.1 Coaches shall only recruit prospective student-athletes who have the necessary academic background to succeed as students at his/her institution.

10.3.2 In determining a prospective student-athlete's initial eligibility status, institutions shall be responsible for making every effort to assure that credentials utilized to determine eligibility are accurate and authentic.

10.3.3 Institutions shall provide student-athletes access to sufficient academic support services and counseling to meet their academic needs.

10.3.4 Institutions shall ensure that their coaches provide student-athletes the necessary time and resources to succeed academically in a meaningful degree program.

10.3.5 A coach, in conjunction with the appropriate academic authorities, shall monitor each student-athlete's academic performance to ensure satisfactory progress and timely graduation with a meaningful college degree.

10.4 GAME MANAGEMENT

10.4.1 Each contest shall be played and administered according to the prescribed rules set forth by the Conference and the NCAA.

10.4.2 The host institution shall ensure that the visiting team has an equal opportunity to compete successfully. This demands that each institution provide adequate crowd control, bench safety, access for press box communication and locker room security.

10.5 SPORTSMANSHIP

10.5.1 Coaches and administrators shall refrain from directed public criticism of other member institutions, their staffs or players.

10.5.2 Coaches and administrators shall make every attempt to promote the Conference and its members in a positive manner.

10.5.3 Coaches and administrators shall make every effort to promote a cooperative environment with the media, providing them with reasonable access to players, injury information and staff interview opportunities.

10.5.4 Coaches, players and support personnel shall refrain from all public criticism of officials, which shall include making public any specific communications with the Conference office related to officiating. *[Revised 6/1/07]*

10.5.5 Coaches and support personnel shall provide favorable examples in appearance, conduct, language and sportsmanship and shall refrain from personnel conduct that may incite spectators. *[Revised 6/2/94]*

10.5.6 Coaches and support personnel shall exhibit respect and courtesy toward opposing players and coaches. *[Revised 6/2/94]*

10.5.7 Institutional officials should assure that all students involved in athletics activities -- including student-athletes, band members, cheerleaders, mascots and students as fans -- are informed of the acceptable behavior that is expected of them as students at that institution and are expected to demonstrate such behavior. *[Revised 6/2/94]*

10.5.8 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 on a continuing basis all constituencies about these policies. *[Adopted 6/4/0; effective 8/1/04]*

10.6 INFRACTIONS

10.6.1 Coaches and administrators shall refrain from making public statements and accusations with regard to infractions concerning member institutions and their personnel. Should questions by the media be directed to these individuals concerning published reports of infractions, appropriate responses should state that such matters, if valid, are reported and investigated in compliance with established Conference and NCAA procedures.

10.6.2 The standard procedural process for reporting alleged infractions with regard to member institutions shall be as follows: *[Revised 6/1/96]*

- (a) A coach shall make all alleged infractions reports to the Athletics Director or his/her designee, and inform the head coach if applicable. Coaches shall refrain from making any public statement regarding such allegations. Individuals making such a report shall avoid hearsay and shall provide sources of information;
- (b) Should the Chief Executive Officer, Athletic Director, or his/her designee, after careful analysis, believe sufficient basis for complaint exists, he/she will immediately contact the Southeastern Conference Commissioner, who will, in turn, inform the appropriate athletic director of the complaint;
- (c) The Athletic Director, or his/her designee, of the institution involved in the alleged infraction will immediately investigate the allegations and make findings known to the Conference Commissioner who will inform the complainant;
- (d) If the alleged violations are valid, the institution will immediately take steps to formally self-report those infractions and any corrective actions taken to the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA; and
- (e) The entire procedure shall be accomplished within the structure of the Conference and not with undue pressure of media attention.

BYLAW, ARTICLE 12

Amateurism

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12.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

12.1.1 Amateur Status. The SEC subscribes to the principles of amateurism set forth in Article 12 of the NCAA Bylaws.

To be read in conjunction with NCAA Bylaw 12.1.2 (a – g).

- (h) However, a student who has completed the full time allotted him for participation in football, shall be permitted to participate in not more than two amateur all-star postseason football games between teams other than those regularly representing colleges.

12.2 INVOLVEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL TEAMS

12.2.1 Tryouts.

12.2.1.2 Tryout After Enrollment. Under SEC rules, a student-athlete in a member institution loses amateur status if the student-athlete participates in any tryout with a professional team during an academic year in which he/she is enrolled, without regard to whether the individual receives expenses or other compensation from the professional organization. However, a student-athlete who has exhausted his/her eligibility in a sport is permitted to attend the scouting service tryouts in that sport and/or retain an agent for that particular sport and still be eligible for other sports as long as he/she meets the requirements of this NCAA article.

12.3 INTERACTION WITH SPORTS AGENTS

12.3.1 Limitation on Access. SEC institutions shall not issue to a sports agent regular season or postseason game credentials in any sport that provide the individual with access to the sideline, locker rooms, or any area where contact with student-athletes may be possible. *[Adopted 6/4/04; effective 8/1/04]*

BYLAW, ARTICLE 13

Recruiting

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In general, the Conference rules and regulations governing recruiting shall be the rules and regulations of the NCAA as set forth in the NCAA Manual and official interpretations thereof.

13.7 UNOFFICIAL (NONPAID) VISIT

13.7.2 Entertainment/Tickets.

13.7.2.2 Home Games Off Campus. In the sport of football, if an institution schedules a minimum of two regular season home games at the same site located in a community other than its own, the host institution may provide a prospect a maximum of three complimentary admissions for one home contest at a site outside the campus. These admissions shall be for the exclusive use of a prospect and those persons accompanying the prospect. The institution shall not arrange or permit any other entertainment or payment of expenses, including transportation.
[Revised 6/5/99]

13.9 LETTER OF INTENT PROGRAMS, FINANCIAL AID AGREEMENTS

13.9.1 Letter of Intent-Limitation. Each SEC member institution is limited to signing 28 football prospective student-athletes to a National Letter of Intent and/or institutional offer of financial aid from the February initial signing date through May 31st of each year. *[Adopted 5/29/09; effective immediately]*

Eligibility:

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14.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

14.01.3 Compliance With Other NCAA and Conference Legislation. A student-athlete must comply with the applicable Bylaws and other requirements of the NCAA and the SEC in order to be eligible for athletically-related aid, for practice, and/or for competition in any intercollegiate sport.

14.01.3.1 Ethical Conduct. Any student-athlete who willfully makes any false or misleading statement or submits or causes to be submitted any false, spurious or misleading documents, or fails or refuses to give full and complete information upon any matter relating to his/her eligibility or otherwise engages in unethical conduct, shall not be eligible to compete in any intercollegiate sport in the Conference. Unethical conduct by a prospective or enrolled student-athlete includes knowing involvement in arranging for fraudulent academic credit or false transcripts. A student-athlete found to be in violation of this regulation shall be ineligible to compete in the Southeastern Conference. *[Revised 6/2/06; effective immediately; Revised 6/1/2008; effective 8/1/2008]*

14.01.3.2 Financial Aid. If at any time before or after matriculation in a member institution a student-athlete or any member of his/her family receives or agrees to receive, directly or indirectly, any aid or assistance beyond or in addition to that permitted by the Bylaws of this Conference (except such aid or assistance as such student-athlete may receive from those persons on whom the student is naturally or legally dependent for support), such student-athlete shall be ineligible for competition in any intercollegiate sport within the Conference for the remainder of his/her college career.

14.01.3.3 Recruitment. If it is determined that a student-athlete has been illegally recruited by a member institution in a manner that violates NCAA Bylaw 13.01.1, the student-athlete's award shall be ruled permanently invalid, and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for competition in any intercollegiate sport at the institution guilty of the infraction for the remainder of his/her college career. Said student-athlete may then be awarded a scholarship by another Southeastern Conference institution. *[Revised 6/3/93]*

14.01.3.4 Uniform Limitations for Ineligible Student-Athletes. A student-athlete who is ineligible for competition shall be precluded from dressing out in his/her team's uniform for home contests. *[Revised 6/1/97]*

14.1 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

14.1.1 Regular-Season and Postseason Competition. Unless otherwise specified in this Manual, regular-season and postseason eligibility rules for the Southeastern Conference are the same as the eligibility rules for NCAA championships.

14.1.2.2. Validity of Academic Credentials. Each SEC member institution bears primary responsibility for reviewing and ensuring the validity of the NCAA Eligibility Center certification of initial eligibility of each prospective student-athlete (“PSA”) who has been offered an athletics scholarship in accordance with this Bylaw 14.1.2.2. *[Revised 6/5/99; Revised 6/2/06; effective immediately; Revised 6/1/2007; effective immediately]*

- (a) Before admitting any PSA, each SEC member institution must review and ensure that all academic credentials (including but not limited to transcripts and standardized test scores) (herein the “Credentials”) supplied to the NCAA Eligibility Center by each PSA are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA, whether the NCAA Eligibility Center challenges or specially reviews those Credentials or not.
- (b) Each SEC member institution shall establish and maintain its own process for the review of Credentials required by subsection (a) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2. The guidelines and policies governing such process shall be reduced to writing, and periodically revised and updated as appropriate. A copy thereof shall be provided annually (on or about July 1) by each member institution’s President or Chancellor to the SEC Commissioner.
- (c) Even if an SEC member institution has admitted a PSA and determined in accordance with its own process that the NCAA Eligibility Center certification of eligibility is based upon valid and accurate Credentials that fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA, the member institution shall provide a special written report (the “Special Report”) to the SEC Commissioner, in accordance with subsections (d) and (e) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, concerning such PSA if:
 - (1) Any one or more of the PSA’s college entrance examination scores or subscores have varied (higher or lower) from any other college entrance examination score in an amount equal to or greater than the security standards of ACT and/or SAT);
 - (2) The PSA transfers or withdraws from high school in his or her senior year;
 - (3) The number of core courses taken during the PSA’s senior year is disproportionate to the number of core courses completed prior to the PSA’s senior year;
 - (4) The PSA has been enrolled in sequential courses in a single academic year or term;
 - (5) Core courses have been taken out of sequence by the PSA;
 - (6) Revisions (other than to correct clerical errors) are made to the PSA’s transcript that raise the PSA’s grade in one or more core courses; or
 - (7) The PSA has completed core coursework through nontraditional means (e.g., virtual high school or a correspondence course).
- (d) Each Special Report to be submitted to the Commissioner as required by subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 shall:
 - (1) Specify which of the numbered subparagraphs of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 triggered the requirement for a Special Report;
 - (2) Attach complete and correct copies of all of the PSA’s Credentials supplied to the NCAA Eligibility Center and to the SEC member institution;
 - (3) Set forth in detail the review made by the member institution to determine whether the Credentials are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA;
 - (4) Include such supporting material as is reasonably necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to establish that the PSA’s Credentials are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA;
 - (5) Be submitted no later than August 15 prior to the PSA’s initial full time enrollment in a fall academic

term, or not later than February 1 immediately following the PSA's initial full time enrollment in a spring academic term, or prior to the PSA's initial participation in intercollegiate competition, whichever is earlier. Waiver of this deadline may be granted by the Commissioner based on extenuating circumstances that prevent the report from being submitted in accordance with the deadline; *[Revised 5/29/2009; Effective 8/1/2009]*

- (6) Include a certification by the President or Chancellor of the member institution affirming that he or she has personally reviewed and approved the Special Report and the decision made by the member institution concerning the admission of and eligibility of the PSA; and
 - (7) The current street address and telephone number of the PSA.
- (e) The supporting material required by subparagraph (4) of subsection (d) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 shall include the following, to the extent applicable:
- (1) If, but only if, the requirement for a Special Report is triggered in whole or in part by numbered subparagraph (1) of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the Special Report shall include verification of college entrance examination scores from the testing authority (i.e., College Board or the ACT, Inc.);
 - (2) If, but only if, the requirement for a Special Report is triggered in whole or in part by numbered subparagraph (2) of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the Special Report shall include a full and complete explanation of the circumstances and cause for the withdrawal or transfer, and verification that the transfer was not for the purpose of avoiding inadequate grades in core course(s) or for the purpose of securing adequate grades in core course(s) without actually meeting the academic requirements of such course(s); and
 - (3) If, but only if, the requirement for a Special Report is triggered in whole or in part by any of numbered subparagraphs (3) – (7) of subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the Special Report shall include verification that the PSA in fact properly completed and satisfied the academic requirements of all core courses and that the PSA's grades in those courses are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA.

The member institution may also include in the Special Report such additional information and materials as may be of assistance to the Commissioner in making the determination required under subsection (h) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2.

- (f) The Special Report shall specifically call to the attention of the Commissioner and provide full and complete information concerning any known disabilities identified by the PSA that might bear on the validity of the Credentials of the PSA, or on the PSA's academic abilities and qualifications. Prospective student-athletes with disabilities are subject to and must comply with the standards and procedures set forth in this Bylaw 14.1.2.2; provided, however, that (i) in satisfying such standards, such students may take advantage of any applicable NCAA or SEC Bylaws that have the purpose or effect of providing reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals, and (ii) the Commissioner may waive or modify the standards in this Bylaw 14.1.2.2, in his sole discretion, if and as necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws or regulations. *[Revised 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]*
- (g) Prior to the Commissioner determining pursuant to subsection (h) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 that a PSA is not eligible for intercollegiate athletic competition at an SEC member institution, the Conference shall provide the PSA with a copy of the Special Report by overnight courier service (to the address of the PSA specified in the Report), along with a copy of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2. The PSA may then submit any and all reasonable materials to the Commissioner that the PSA wants the Commissioner to consider, provided that the PSA's submission must be received by the Conference office within fifteen (15) calendar days after the Special Report is deposited with the overnight courier service for delivery to the PSA. If the PSA submits materials to the Commissioner, the PSA shall simultaneously provide a copy of the entire submission to the SEC member institution at which the PSA proposes to participate in intercollegiate athletics. In such event, the SEC institution may, at its option, provide a supplemental submission of its own to Commissioner addressing any matter in the PSA's submission; provided that such supplemental submission must be furnished to the Commissioner, with a copy to the PSA at the address specified in the Report (or such other address as may be specified in the PSA's submission), within thirty (30) calendar days after the Special Report is deposited with the overnight courier service for delivery to the PSA.

- (h) As expeditiously as is reasonably feasible after receiving the Special Report and any submissions pursuant to subsection (g) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2., the Commissioner shall issue a determination of the PSA's eligibility to compete in intercollegiate athletic competition, based on the following criteria:
- (1) The burden of demonstrating to the reasonable satisfaction of the Commissioner that the PSA's Credentials are valid, accurate, and fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA shall be on the SEC member institution. If the SEC member institution fails to meet that burden, the Commissioner shall determine that the PSA is ineligible.
 - (2) The Commissioner shall not conduct an independent review, but shall base his or her determination on the Special Report and on any submission the PSA may choose to make pursuant to subsection (g) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2.
 - (3) The Special Report must adequately address and resolve all material factual issues concerning the validity and accuracy of the Credentials, or concerning whether those Credentials fairly reflect the academic abilities and qualifications of the PSA.
 - (4) The Commissioner shall take into account and comply with any applicable legal requirements concerning the rights of persons with disabilities in making his or her determination.

The Commissioner's determination shall be final and not subject to appeal or review.

- (i) A PSA for whom a Special Report is required to be submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of this Bylaw 14.1.2.2 shall not be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletic competition at an SEC member institution unless and until the Commissioner has determined that the PSA is eligible as contemplated by subsection (h).

14.1.3 Student-Athlete Statement.

14.1.3.1 Content and Purpose. A student-athlete who is to receive financial aid must, as a condition of eligibility, sign a statement certifying that he/she has received no extra benefit whatsoever, from any unauthorized source, beyond the grant permitted by applicable NCAA and Southeastern Conference Bylaws and regulations. All student-athletes must pledge that they will not accept any such extra benefit in the future. A student-athlete who is not receiving any financial aid must sign a statement to that effect at the beginning of each season as a condition of eligibility.

14.1.6.2.6 Correspondence, Extension and Transfer Credit. A total of not more than six semester or nine quarter hours of correspondence, extension course and transfer credit in any given twelve-month period may be used to fulfill the minimum satisfactory-progress requirements. (See NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.4.3) *[Revised 5/30/91]*

14.1.15 Two-Year Eligibility. A student-athlete who, upon enrollment at the certifying institution, has less than two years of eligibility remaining, is not eligible for financial aid, practice or competition at the member institution. A member institution may request a waiver from the Conference office for academic reasons or for an individual transferring from an institution discontinuing a sport. *[Adopted 6/3/93; effective for those student-athletes matriculating to the certifying institution subsequent to August 1, 1994; Revised 6/3/05; Revised 6/2/06; Revised 6/1/07]*

14.1.15.1 Student-Athlete Who Has Been Awarded a Baccalaureate Degree. A student-athlete with less than two years of eligibility remaining may be permitted to transfer to and compete in the Southeastern Conference if the student-athlete has previously completed requirements for and been awarded a baccalaureate degree and is enrolled in a specific degree program in a graduate or professional school of an institution other than the institution from which he or she previously received a baccalaureate degree, has eligibility remaining and such participation occurs within the applicable five-year period set forth in NCAA Bylaw 14.2.1. *[Adopted 6/4/2010; Effective 8/1/2010]*

14.1.16 Postseason Competition & Continuing Eligibility. To be eligible to represent an SEC institution in postseason competition and an SEC championship event a student-athlete must pass six hours of degree credit in the academic term that concluded immediately prior to the postseason competition, regardless of whether the competition occurs at the end of the term or during the subsequent term. The requisite credit hours must be earned during the academic year. If a student-athlete is declared ineligible to represent an institution in an SEC championship pursuant to this rule, the student-athlete shall not be

eligible to represent the institution in postseason competition. *[Adopted 6/2/00; Revised 6/1/02 effective January 2003]*

14.1.16.1 Acceptable Credit Hours. Credit hours earned to fulfill the six hour requirement must be degree credits acceptable towards any degree the institution offers and are not limited to the student-athlete's specific baccalaureate degree; however, it shall not be permissible to use hours earned for participation in the student-athlete's sport to fulfill the six hour requirement. *[Adopted 6/3/05 effective 8/1/2005; Applicable to credit hours earned following 8/1/2005]*

14.1.16.2 Final Semester. A student-athlete enrolled in less than six hours of studies as permitted in NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.2.1.3 is exempt from the credit hour requirement of SEC Bylaw 14.1.16, provided the student-athlete successfully completes all hours necessary to complete degree requirements. Any student-athlete enrolled in fewer than six hours per NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.2.1.3 who fails to successfully complete all hours necessary to finish his/her degree requirements shall not be eligible to represent the institution in postseason competition. *[Adopted 5/30/03 effective 8/1/2003]*

14.1.17 Class Attendance Policies. Southeastern Conference athletics departments shall establish class attendance policies for student-athletes. Each athletics department has discretion as to the nature and scope of the policy. Each athletics department shall provide a reasonable means for supervision and enforcement. These policies shall provide appropriate sanctions when the policy is violated. The applicable athletic sanctions shall include suspension from competition. The policy shall annually be filed with the Conference office by October 1. *[Adopted 6/1/2007 effective 8/1/2007]*

14.2 SEASONS OF COMPETITION: FIVE-YEAR RULE

14.2.4 Hardship Waiver. Upon application to the Commissioner by a member institution, a student-athlete may be granted an additional year of varsity competition in accordance with the NCAA hardship rule. An application for hardship must be endorsed by the team physician, trainer and the Director of Athletics.

14.3 FRESHMAN ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

14.3.2 Eligibility for Financial Aid, Practice and Competition.

14.3.2.1 Non-Qualifiers *[Revised 6/1/95; Revised 6/1/2008; effective 8/1/2008]*

- (a) A non-qualifier (as defined by NCAA Bylaw 14.3.2.1) who initially enrolls at an SEC institution subsequent to August 1, 1993, shall not be eligible for athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition during his or her first year in residence. Such a student shall be eligible for non-athletics institutional financial aid that is not from an athletics source and is based on financial need only, consistent with institutional regulations. *[Revised 6/1/95; Revised 6/1/08; effective 8/1/08]*
- (b) A limited number (see limits in subsection 14.3.2.1(c) below) of student-athletes who enroll at an SEC institution as freshmen or as 4-4 transfer students and who are non-qualifiers (or were non-qualifiers at the time of their original enrollment in college may become eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition after their freshman year, provided that (i) each such student presents an average high school GPA of at least 2.0 (as confirmed and certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) in at least twelve core courses, and (ii) the Commissioner issues a favorable determination with respect to such student in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection 14.3.2.1(g) below. Even though such non-qualifier may not receive athletically-related financial aid, the non-qualifier shall count in the institution's overall team financial aid limits. In equivalency sports, such non-qualifier shall count as one-half of a full athletic grant-in-aid the first year; in subsequent years, the actual grant-in-aid value shall count. *[Revised 6/1/96 effective June 1, 1997 for those student-athletes first entering an SEC institution on or after Fall semester/quarter, 1997; Revised 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]*
- (c) There shall be an annual limit on the number of student-athletes who are non-qualifiers and who may become eligible after their freshman year for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition, whether such student-athletes are enrolled as freshmen or as 4-4 transfer students. (These limits do not apply to two-year college transfer students, see Bylaw 14.5.4.2.) The limits, which are applied on an

annual basis with no carry-over of unused numbers to following years, are set forth as follows: *[Adopted 6/5/99; revised 5/30/03; Revised 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]*

For men's sports a total of four non-qualifiers enrolled in a particular academic year (either as first year students or 4-4 transfers) may become eligible to receive athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition. Of these four, no more than two are permitted to become eligible in football, and no more than one may become eligible in any other sport.

For women's sports, a total of four non-qualifiers enrolled in a particular academic year (either as first year students or 4-4 transfers) may become eligible to receive athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition. Of these four, no more than one may become eligible in any one sport. *[Revised 5/30/03 effective 8/1/2003]*

- (d) The annual limits set forth in subsection 14.3.2.1 (c) shall not apply to any student-athlete who has been certified by the NCAA as learning disabled and who is otherwise eligible hereunder. *[Adopted 6/5/99]*
- (e) In the event that an SEC institution enrolls a student-athlete as a freshman who is a non-qualifier and who does not present an average high school GPA of at least 2.0 (as confirmed and certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center) in at least twelve core courses, or in the event that the Commissioner issues an unfavorable determination with respect to any such student in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection 14.3.2.1(g) below, such student may never become eligible for athletically-related financial aid, or for practice or competition, at such institution. Before enrolling a student who may be affected by this Bylaw 14.3.2.1(e), the SEC institution should inform the student that SEC Bylaw 14.5 may afford the student a path to possible eligibility, in the event, for example, that the student chooses to attend a two year college. If and to the extent otherwise allowed by NCAA Bylaws, a transfer student from a two year college may be eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition for up to four years. *[Adopted 6/1/08]*
- (f) Prospective student-athletes with disabilities are subject to and must satisfy the eligibility standards set forth in this Bylaw 14.3.2.1; provided, however, that (i) in satisfying such standards, such students may take advantage of NCAA Bylaws 14.3.1.2.1.2 and 14.3.1.2.5, and any other applicable NCAA or SEC Bylaws that have the purpose or effect of providing reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals, and (ii) the Commissioner may waive or modify the standards in this Bylaw 14.3.2.1, in his sole discretion, if and as necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws or regulations. *[Adopted 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]*
- (g) For each non-qualifier admitted pursuant to subsection 14.3.2.1(b) above other than 4-4 transfer students, at or before the time of the non-qualifier's enrollment, the member institution must submit a Special Report to the Commissioner with all of the information, data, and documentation listed in subsections (d)(2) - (d)(4) and (d)(6) - (d)(7) of Bylaw 14.1.2.2 (except that the President or Chancellor need make no certification concerning eligibility as is contemplated by the last phrase in subsection 14.1.2.2(d)(7)), as well as all of the information, data, and documentation listed in subsections 14.1.2.2(e)(2) and (3) if and to the extent applicable. The Special Report shall also include the information described in subsection 14.1.2.2(f) if applicable. The Commissioner shall review such Special Report under the standards and procedures set forth in subsection 14.1.2.2(g) and (h), and shall issue a determination whether the non-qualifier shall be allowed to become eligible for athletically-related financial aid, practice, and competition after completion of his or her freshman year in the event that the non-qualifier meets or exceeds all applicable academic performance requirements (and all other requirements) for eligibility *[Adopted 6/1/0; effective 8/1/2008]*
- (h) The June 1, 2008 amendments to Article 14 (primarily including but not limited to the amendments to this Bylaw 14.3.2.1) shall be effective immediately for all prospective and current students; provided, however, that any requirements, conditions, or standards newly imposed by such amendments shall be waived by the Commissioner if and to the extent that the application of such new requirements, conditions, or standards would adversely affect the current or future eligibility (for athletically-related aid, practice or competition)

of any student enrolled at a member institution as of September 15, 2007. *[Adopted 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]*

14.3.7 Two-Year Eligibility. See SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.

14.4 PROGRESS TOWARD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The general Southeastern Conference principle on which the academic progress requirements are based is that a student-athlete must pass, during each quarter or semester in which he/she is enrolled and for the entire academic year, adequate course work to assure satisfactory progress toward graduation.

14.4.3.10 Correspondence, Extension and Transfer Credit. See SEC Bylaw 14.1.6.2.6.

14.4.4 Other Interpretations. In cases not explicitly covered by these Bylaws, binding interpretations shall be made by the Commissioner, subject to review by the SEC Executive Committee.

14.5 TRANSFER REGULATIONS

14.5.4 Two-Year College Transfers.

14.5.4.2 Non-qualifiers. A non-qualifier, who initially enrolls at a two-year college and transfers to an SEC member institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid, practice or competition unless each of the following requirements have been met: *[Revised 6/3/93; further revised 6/1/08]*

- (a) Graduated with an Associate or equivalent degree in an academic, rather than a vocational, curriculum (see NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.5.4); *[Revised 6/3/05]*
- (b) Completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 of transferable degree credit accepted toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution;
- (c) Attended the two-year college that granted the Associate or equivalent degree as a full-time student for the last three semesters or four quarters immediately prior to graduation from the institution granting the two-year degree (excluding summer terms); *[Revised 6/1/02]*
- (d) Earned at least six credit hours of transferable English with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in these credit hours (Effective August 1, 2008; for student-athletes first enrolling at an SEC institution on or after August 1, 2008 correspondence, extension and distance learning courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement); and *[Revised 6/5/99 effective August 1, 1999 for student-athletes first entering a SEC institution on or after Fall semester/quarter; Revised 6/1/2007]*
- (e) Earned at least three credit hours of transferable math with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 in these credit hours (Effective August 1, 2008; for student-athletes first enrolling at an SEC institution on or after August 1, 2008, correspondence, extension and distance learning courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement). *[Revised 6/1/02 effective June 1, 2003; Revised 6/1/2007]*

14.5.5 Four-Year College Transfers. See NCAA Bylaw 14.5.5.

14.5.5.1 Transferring within the Southeastern Conference. A transfer student from a Southeastern Conference institution shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition at another Southeastern Conference institution until the student has fulfilled a residence requirement of one full academic year (two full semesters) at the certifying institution. Further, a transfer student-athlete admitted after the 12th class day may not utilize that semester for the purpose of establishing residency. Student-athletes meeting the terms of NCAA Bylaws 14.5.5.2.1, 14.5.5.2.2, 14.5.5.2.3, 14.5.5.2.4,

14.5.5.2.5, 14.5.5.2.6, 14.5.5.2.7, 14.5.5.2.8 and 14.5.5.2.9 may seek a waiver of the provisions of this bylaw. [Revised 6/2/00; effective 8/1/2001; Revised 6/1/08]

14.5.5.6 Non-qualifiers. A non-qualifier who initially enrolls at any other four-year institution and transfers to an SEC member institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid, practice or competition unless each of the following requirements have been met: [Adopted 6/3/93; Revised 5/29/97 effective 8/1/1997; Revised 6/1/08]

- (a) The student must be in good academic standing at an accredited institution and must have completed satisfactorily a minimum of 48 semester or 72 quarter hours with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 of transferable degree credit accepted toward any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution;
- (b) The student must have attended the four-year institution for at least three semesters or four quarters (excluding summer terms) as a full time student; and
- (c) The student must have at least two seasons of competition remaining.

14.5.5.6.1 A non-qualifier who initially enrolls at any other four-year institution and transfers to an SEC member institution shall be counted in the annual limits of non-qualifiers as specified in SEC Bylaw 14.3.2.1 [Revised 8/1/97; Revised 6/1/08]

14.5.5.6.1.1 Graduated Student Exception. A student-athlete who has earned a baccalaureate degree shall be exempt from the annual limits in SEC Bylaw 14.3.2.1 (c). [Adopted 6/1/2007; effective 8/1/2007 for student-athletes first enrolling at an SEC institution on or after 8/1/2007]

14.5.6 "4-2-4" College Transfers–Non-qualifiers. A non-qualifier, regardless of sport, who initially enrolls at a non-SEC four-year institution, transfers to a junior college and then transfers to an SEC member institution, shall not be eligible for financial aid, practice or competition unless the junior college transfer requirements listed in SEC Bylaw 14.5.4 have been met. [Revised 6/3/93]

14.5.7 Two-Year Eligibility. See SEC Bylaw 14.1.15.

14.5.8 Waivers. Prospective student-athletes with education impacting disabilities are subject to and must satisfy the eligibility standards set forth in this Bylaw 14.5; provided, however, that (i) in satisfying such standards, such students may take advantage of any applicable NCAA or SEC Bylaws that have the purpose or effect of providing reasonable accommodation to disabled individuals, and (ii) the Commissioner may waive or modify the standards in this Bylaw 14.5, in his sole discretion, if and as necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable laws or regulations. [Adopted 6/1/08; effective 8/1/2008]

14.7 OUTSIDE COMPETITION, EFFECTS ON ELIGIBILITY

14.7.1 Outside Competition, Sports Other Than Basketball. A student-athlete, who participates in a sport during the academic year as a representative of another institution or as a member of an organized outside team or group, shall be ineligible in that sport during the remainder of that academic year, except that in basketball the student-athlete is ineligible permanently, as provided under NCAA regulations; in volleyball the student-athlete is ineligible for the following year when the outside competition occurs after the close of the season. (See NCAA Bylaw 14.7.1.1 for Division I Vacation-Period Exception) (NOTE: Information regarding opportunity for appeal for restoration of eligibility may be secured from the Conference office.)

14.7.3 Additional Applications of Outside Competition Regulations, Sports Other Than Basketball.

14.7.3.4 Competition Between Seasons. If an institution conducts separate fall and spring practice or playing seasons in a sport, it is not permissible for a student-athlete to participate in that sport on an outside team during the period between the two seasons without affecting his/her eligibility.

14.7.3.5 Competition as Individual/Not Representing Institution. Student-athletes may participate as individuals in events such as golf and tennis tournaments and swimming and track meets, provided such participation is approved by the Athletic Director and head coach of that sport and does not violate NCAA regulations.

14.8 ADDITIONAL WAIVERS FOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

14.8.2 Residence Requirement.

To be read in conjunction with NCAA Bylaw 14.8.2 (c):

- (c) **Transfer from Institution on Probation.** A student-athlete granted a waiver of the one-year residence requirement by the NCAA under NCAA Bylaw 14.8.2 (c) shall be eligible for aid, practice and participation at the time of transfer, provided all other Conference and NCAA requirements are met, but only if the transfer is from a non-Conference institution.

14.10 CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

14.10.1 Institutional Responsibility for Eligibility Certification.

14.10.1.10 Certification of Eligibility Form. Before a student-athlete may compete in any intercollegiate contest, his/her eligibility must be certified to the Commissioner on the squad list form furnished by the Conference. The appropriate institutional official shall certify the student-athlete's initial eligibility (freshman academic requirements or transfer requirements), continuing eligibility (progress toward degree), and financial aid. In addition, the form shall be signed by the Athletic Director and the Faculty Athletics Representative.

14.10.1.11 Certification of Eligibility Deadline. Each student-athlete must be initially certified prior to his/her first contest each academic year, whether or not this contest occurs prior to the academic term designated as the regular season for that sport.

14.10.1.12 Certification of Continuing Eligibility in Additional Terms. The Commissioner shall be advised by the institution of the continuing eligibility of each student-athlete who will participate in sports during additional terms of the academic year after the initial annual certification. (NOTE: A list of those with continuing eligibility is sufficient.)

BYLAW, ARTICLE 15

Financial Aid

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15.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

15.01.1 Institutional Financial Aid Permitted. Any scholarship or financial aid to a student-athlete must be awarded in accordance with all NCAA and SEC regulations. Full records detailing the source and distribution of all financial aid awarded to student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics shall be kept for a minimum of seven years.

15.01.5 Eligibility of Student-Athletes for Institutional Financial Aid.

To be read in conjunction with NCAA Bylaw 15.01.5 (a – d)

- (e) A student-athlete who has signed a financial aid agreement with an SEC member institution and is eligible to receive the athletic scholarship on the institution’s first day of classes of the academic year specified on the financial aid agreement, but who does not enter that institution or who does enter and withdraws from that institution before fully completing-his/her first semester or quarter (except when the recipient of an athletic scholarship award enters military service before enrolling in the awarding institution and remains in military service for a period of eighteen months or more), shall not be eligible to receive an athletics grant-in-aid during the student-athlete's first two years in residence at the second SEC institution. *[Revised 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006]*
- (f) Participation by the institution in a representative Conference schedule is a prerequisite to the awarding of financial aid in any sport regulated by the Conference.
- (g) If a student-athlete is awarded financial aid in a sport recognized by the NCAA but not regulated by the Conference and desires to participate in a sport which is regulated by the Conference, the student-athlete must be counted as though he/she were given the same aid in the sport in which the student-athlete wishes to participate. Further, the student-athlete cannot practice or participate in the sports of football or men’s basketball until he has met the provisions of NCAA Bylaws 15.5.1 and/or 15.5.7.

15.2 ELEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AID

15.2.8 Summer Financial Aid

15.2.8.1.4 Summer Financial Aid - Prior to Initial, Full-Time Enrollment at the Certifying Institution. A prospective student-athlete must be certified as a qualifier by the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to being awarded financial aid for the summer term preceding initial collegiate enrollment at the certifying institution. *[Revised 6/3/05]*

15.2.8.1.4.1 Waivers. A prospective student-athlete not certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center may be provided with financial aid for the summer term preceding initial collegiate enrollment at the certifying institution only if the prospective student-athlete has:

- (a) Graduated from high school;
- (b) Successfully completed the required minimum number of core courses as required by NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.1 and reported on the prospective student-athlete’s high school transcript;

- (c) Achieved a high school core grade point average and standardized test score for a qualifier as required by NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.1.2 and reported on the prospective student-athlete's high school transcript or testing agency score report;
- (d) Registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center;
- (e) Presented these credentials to the certifying institution prior to enrollment in the summer term; and
- (f) The certifying institution submits a written report to the SEC office by August 1 that lists all student-athletes receiving this waiver and the date the student-athlete was officially certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

15.2.8.1.5 Summer Financial Aid-Prior to Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment. Financial aid for summer school may be made available to any entering student-athlete who has signed either a National Letter of Intent or SEC Financial Aid Agreement with the university providing the financial aid. This financial aid must be awarded consistent with NCAA and SEC guidelines, and may be awarded to any student-athlete during the summer prior to their initial enrollment at the institution, provided each student-athlete's goals are to become acclimated to the university setting, to advance academically prior to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution, and the recipient is enrolled in a minimum of six hours of academic course work (other than physical education activity courses) that is acceptable degree credit toward any of the institution's degree programs. Remedial, tutorial and noncredit courses may be used to satisfy the minimum six-hour requirement, provided the courses are considered by the institution to be prerequisites for specific courses acceptable for any degree program and are given the same academic weight as other courses offered by the institution. *[Adopted 6/3/05 effective immediately]*

15.5 MAXIMUM INSTITUTIONAL GRANT-IN-AID LIMITATIONS BY SPORT

15.5.13 Replacement of Initial Grants-In-Aid. The Commissioner is authorized to replace any number of initial grants in any sport provided the recipient:

- (a) Does not meet the academic requirements for admission to the institution;
- (b) Does not qualify academically for a grant;
- (c) Certifies to the Commissioner in writing that he/she does not intend to enroll at the awarding institution;
- (d) Signs a National Letter of Intent with a non-Conference institution; or
- (e) Signs a professional contract prior to his/her admission to the institution. Furthermore, the Commissioner may replace initial grants for any other reason deemed to be in the best interest of the student-athlete and the awarding institution.

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16.2 COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSIONS AND TICKET BENEFITS

16.2.1 Permissible Procedures.

16.2.1.1 Institutional Events in the Student-Athlete's Sport.

16.2.1.1.2 Exceptions – SEC Championships, NCAA Championships and Bowl Games. Complimentary admissions for an SEC Championship, NCAA Championship or Bowl Game shall be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. SEC member institutions may provide six complimentary admissions to each individual listed as a member of the official traveling squad for an SEC Championship, NCAA Championship or Bowl Game. No more than two admissions may be provided to non-traveling members of the squad. *[Revised 5/30/03; effective August 1, 2003; Revised 6/4/2010; effective 8/1/2010]*

16.2.1.2 Regular Season Complimentary Admissions and Ticket Benefits: Men's Basketball and Football. Complimentary admissions for regular season contests shall be provided only through a pass list for individuals designated by the student-athlete. "Hard tickets" shall not be issued. The institution shall be responsible for this administrative procedure, and the student-athlete's eligibility shall be affected by involvement in action contrary to the provisions of NCAA Bylaws 16.2.1 and 16.2.2 (i.e., receipt of more than the permissible four complimentary admissions or the sale or exchange of a complimentary admission for any item of value). *[Adopted 6/2/94; Revised 6/4/04 effective August 1, 2004; Revised 6/4/2010; effective 8/1/2010]*

Playing and Practice Seasons

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17.1 GENERAL PLAYING-SEASON REGULATIONS

17.1.9 Southeastern Conference Limitation on Practice, Playing Season, Number of Contests and Squad Sizes. Practice, playing seasons, number of contests and squad sizes are governed by the following:

- (a) In sports regulated by the Southeastern Conference, limitations on practice, playing seasons, maximum contests, championships and tournaments, and squad sizes (home and travel) shall be in accordance with Figure 17-1;
- (b) An institution shall not schedule contests of any kind during a period beginning with the first scheduled final exam through the last scheduled final exam. This bylaw does not apply to games scheduled by the Conference; [*Adopted 6/4/04*]
- (c) In sports other than football, basketball and women’s rowing, extended trips (more than seven days including travel) are not permitted during an institution's Christmas holiday period;
- (d) In the sport of football, all practices, including intra-squad games, must be held on campus, or in the immediate campus community, except that this restriction does not apply to postseason games or regular in-season games to be played away from home. In all other sports, the site of practice, including squad games, will be in accordance with NCAA rules; and
- (e) When regular season competition is conducted by divisional play, the divisions shall be as follows:

<u>EASTERN</u>	<u>WESTERN</u>
Florida	Alabama
Georgia	Arkansas
Kentucky	Auburn
South Carolina	LSU
Tennessee	Ole Miss
Vanderbilt	Mississippi State

17.33 PLAYING RULES

In the sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules, member institutions shall conduct all their intercollegiate contests under the official playing rules specified by the NCAA. In the sports for which the NCAA does not develop playing rules, member institutions shall conduct all contests under the rules stated in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport, as well as all NCAA rules modifications approved for NCAA championships.

Contracts between Conference and non-Conference members located in the Conference area shall require that the contest be played under the rules and regulations of the conference of which they are members or under the rules of the Southeastern Conference.

Figure 17-1

Figure 17-1		
Sport	Home and Visiting Team Squad Size Policies	SEC Championship Squad Size Policies
	Any competition involving multiple SEC teams is subject to the squad size limitations. The squad size number listed represents the maximum number of eligible student-athletes for whom an institution may pay any travel expenses. SEC squad size limitations are not applicable to NCAA Championship events.	
Baseball	<p>The home team may dress 30 student-athletes in uniform, but only 27 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a series.</p> <p>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>(Contests not included in the SEC schedule and not used to determine the SEC champion are not subject to the limit).</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.2.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.2.5</p>	27
Basketball	<p>The home and visiting teams are limited to a squad size of 15 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.3.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.3.5</p>	15
Cross Country	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 12 competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 12 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.5.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.5.5</p>	10
Football	<p>The home team may dress 95 student-athletes in uniform, but only 80 student-athletes may participate in a Conference contest. (The 15 non-participants shall dress out at no additional cost to the institution. Student-athletes shall not receive pre-game meals, overnight lodging or additional game tickets. They may receive a post-game meal provided it is served at the stadium. No cash stipend is permitted for post-game meals away from the stadium.)</p> <p>The visiting team is limited to a squad size of 70 student-athletes.</p> <p>The squad size limit for neutral site games (no more than one game annually) is 70 for both participating teams.</p> <p>The squad size for junior varsity teams is 55 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.9.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.9.5</p>	85
Golf	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 6 competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 6 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.10.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.10.5</p>	6
Gymnastics	<p>The home and visiting teams are limited to a squad size of 18 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.11.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.11.5</p>	18
Soccer	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 22 competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 22 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.19.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.19.5</p>	22
Softball	<p>The home and visiting teams are limited to a squad size of 20 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.20.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.20.5</p>	20
Swimming	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 24 scoring competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 24 student-athletes.</p> <p>For invitational meets, the host shall determine squad size.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.22.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.22.5</p>	18 competitors plus two alternate competitors (For the SEC Championship a swimmer, or a swimmer who also dives, counts as one competitor. A diver will count as one-half of a competitor.)
Tennis	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 8 competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 8 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.23.5</p>	8
Track – Indoor	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 27 competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 27 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.5</p>	27
Track – Outdoor	<p>No squad size restrictions apply to the home team, but 30 competitors must be declared prior to the start of competition.</p> <p>A visiting team is limited to a squad size of 30 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.24.5</p>	30
Volleyball	<p>The home and visiting teams are limited to a squad size of 15 student-athletes.</p> <p>Practice Limitations—NCAA Bylaw 17.25.1 Minimum Contest Requirement—NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3 Maximum Contest Limit—NCAA Bylaw 17.25.5</p>	15

Championships and Tournaments

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18.10 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TOURNAMENTS

18.10.1 General Regulations. Conference championships and tournaments are subject to the following:

- (a) Unless otherwise specified in the sections dealing with individual sports, Conference championships and tournaments shall be held in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport;
- (b) Institutions participating shall assume full financial responsibilities;
- (c) It shall be the duty of the Conference member or members to which championships or tournaments are awarded to make all local arrangements for conducting the championships or tournaments. The host institution shall keep a complete record of the contest and report to the Conference office;
- (d) All Conference championships and tournaments shall be open to only Southeastern Conference teams;
- (e) In the sports of football, baseball, men's and women's basketball, gymnastics and soccer, a detailed financial report shall be made to the Conference office. In all other championships and tournaments that are administered by a member institution, the host institution will assume full financial responsibilities and file a financial report with the Conference office; [*Revised 6/3/93*]
- (f) The Southeastern Conference office will provide trophies and awards for all sports in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations governing each sport;
- (g) All Conference championships shall be scheduled during a time period that does not conflict with the final examination periods of any member institution. A waiver of this bylaw shall be granted only upon the majority approval of the Executive Committee; and [*Revised 6/1/96*]
- (h) All issues regarding selection of participants and seeding for the Conference championships shall be listed in the Commissioner's Regulations for each sport. [*Adopted 6/1/02*]

Enforcement

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19.10 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

19.10.1 General Principles.

The primary objective of the Conference compliance program is to help member institutions achieve compliance with Conference and NCAA legislation primarily through the exercise of educational programs and monitoring procedures. Although a compliance program provides no guarantees of avoiding violations, it can help to ensure that problems that arise remain limited in scope and place the institution in a better position to take appropriate self-corrective measures.

It is the goal of the SEC compliance program to eradicate willful violations of NCAA and Conference legislation and to reduce, as much as possible, inadvertent violations of these regulations. To achieve that end, the Conference should provide support services necessary to assist institutional staff members in achieving a working knowledge of NCAA and Conference legislation as well as defining standards of expected conduct and consequences for failure to comply. It should be emphasized that the provision of technical support and other resources by the Conference office does not alter the fact that the primary responsibility for compliance remains with the institution.

19.10.2 Conference Compliance Programs.

The SEC compliance program will include the following services:

19.10.2.1 Legislative services, including but not limited to:

- (a) Rules interpretations;
- (b) Distribution of written legislative interpretation updates as well as other rules education materials;
- (c) Annual on-campus educational presentations to coaches and administrators; and
- (d) Additional education seminars and programs, such as the SEC Summer Workshop, as necessary.

19.10.2.2 Support efforts of institutional compliance coordinators both through regular contact and meetings as necessary.

19.10.2.3 Support efforts of institutional Directors of Student-Athlete Support programs both through regular contact and meetings as necessary.

19.10.2.4 At an institution's request, the Conference will conduct or assist in institutional self-studies and compliance reviews.

19.10.2.5 At an institution's request, Conference staff will provide assistance in the processing of an institutional infraction.

19.10.2.6 The Conference will also serve to coordinate all eligibility appeals between institutions and the NCAA.

19.10.3 Duties and Powers of the Commissioner. The powers and duties of the Commissioner are outlined in the SEC Constitution Articles, 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.

19.10.3.1 The Commissioner is charged with the duty of administering and enforcing the legislation of the Conference and the NCAA.

19.10.3.2 The Commissioner is the official interpreter of NCAA and SEC rules and regulations.

19.10.3.3 Requests for interpretations of NCAA rules and regulations should be presented to the NCAA through the Commissioner's office.

19.10.3.4 The Commissioner has the duty and power to investigate the validity of violations and impose penalties and sanctions against member institutions, their athletic staff members or student-athletes, for practices and conduct which violate the spirit, as well as the letter of NCAA and SEC rules and regulations. This shall include the ability to render prospective student-athletes or current student-athletes ineligible for competition due to their involvement in a violation of NCAA or SEC rules that occurs during the individual's recruitment. The Commissioner also has the authority to suspend institutional staff members from participation in recruiting activities or participation in practice and/or competition due to their involvement in violations of NCAA or SEC rules. *(Revised 6/4/2010; Effective 9/1/2010).*

19.10.4 Allegations, Complaints, Investigations

19.10.4.1 When a member institution discovers that a violation has occurred or receives information of a possible violation by another member institution, the matter shall be reported to the Conference office through the institution's Chief Executive Officer or Athletic Director.

19.10.4.2 Allegations and complaints of rules violations received by the Commissioner, from any source, will be evaluated as to credibility and potential status (major or secondary).

19.10.4.3 Upon determination that an allegation or complaint has substance, the Commissioner will notify the institution involved. With the notification, the Commissioner will request the institution to conduct an immediate, preliminary inquiry and submit a written report within 30 days.

19.10.4.4 If a violation is determined by the Commissioner and found to be secondary, based on the results of the preliminary inquiry, the Commissioner will assign punitive action as deemed necessary and make the appropriate report.

19.10.4.5 A member institution shall have the right to appeal the punitive action issued by the Commissioner to the SEC Compliance Committee according to the procedures outlined in Bylaw 19.10.6 of the SEC Compliance Program.

19.10.4.6 If the violation is determined to be major or has the potential to develop into a major infractions case, the Commissioner and/or the institution will notify the NCAA when appropriate.

19.10.4.7 Upon the request of a member institution or the NCAA, the Conference will provide assistance in any inquiry of an alleged major violation, and in the preparation of infractions reports during any subsequent NCAA Infractions Committee hearings.

19.10.4.8 In cases where a member institution appeals to the NCAA for restoration of a student-athlete's eligibility, a copy of all correspondence related to the appeal shall be forwarded to the Conference office.

19.10.5 Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee structure and selection shall be as follows:

19.10.5.1 The Compliance Committee, appointed by the Commissioner, will be composed of two Athletic

Directors, two Faculty Athletics Representatives, and one ad hoc member will be selected by the Commissioner based on the case to be considered. The Commissioner will also select the replacement for any committee member from an involved institution.

19.10.5.2 The term of committee membership is four years with initial appointments to be staggered to assure continuity. A member cannot serve consecutive full terms.

19.10.5.3 There will be no more than one committee member from any one institution.

19.10.6 Compliance Committee Hearings. Compliance committee hearings will be conducted as follows:

19.10.6.1 The Commissioner is authorized to call any formal hearings by the committee. Written notification of the hearing will be furnished to the institution and all individuals allegedly involved. The Commissioner will furnish copies of all investigative reports and any other pertinent data to the committee members, the involved institution and any individuals allegedly involved.

19.10.6.2 The committee shall specify the procedures to be followed in any hearing, in accordance with due process. Individuals named in allegations(s) will be notified that they are entitled to be present at the hearing, along with legal counsel. In addition, the committee has the right to determine who may attend the hearings.

19.10.6.3 The committee will review, consider and/or adjudicate the following:

- (a) Results or inquiries conducted by an institution, the NCAA and/or the Commissioner;
- (b) Any questions of a student-athlete's eligibility; and
- (c) Any disagreement between institutions, or between an institution and the Commissioner.

19.10.6.4 Results of a committee hearing will be forwarded in written form to the Commissioner and the institution involved.

BYLAW, ARTICLE 20

Division Membership

The Southeastern Conference subscribes to the principles for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics set forth in Article 2 of the NCAA Constitution and assists its member institutions in promoting these principles.

Committees

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21.5 SPORTS COMMITTEES

21.5.20 Southeastern Conference Sports Committees. Men's and women's sports committees are subject to the following:

- (a) There shall be a sports committee for each men's and each women's sport sponsored by the Southeastern Conference. The committee shall be composed of the head coaches of each institution sponsoring the sport. The chair of the committee will be selected by the head coaches each year; *[Revised 6/1/95]*
- (b) The sports committees make recommendations to the Athletic Directors and Senior Woman Administrators on all aspects of their sport; and
- (c) The format and site of all coaches' meetings are to be determined by the Conference office, and each institution shall be represented by only the head coach. No alternative representation shall be permitted. In track where there are two coaches, one representing men's teams and one representing women's teams, each institution shall be represented by at least one head coach. Additionally, in swimming, the diving coach of the host institution for the championship may attend the meeting. *[Revised 6/5/99]*

BYLAW, ARTICLE 22

Football Television Plans and Regulations

All television shall be subject to current SEC television contracts.

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30.20 OFFICIATING

30.20.1 Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball Officiating.

30.20.1.1 Compensation of Officials for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball. The Executive Committee will set the travel expenses and the maximum fees for officials for Conference varsity baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball games and for regular-season football games. *[Revised 6/1/01]*

30.20.1.2 Approval, Evaluation and Assignment of Officials. The control, selection, training, evaluation and assignment of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball officials shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner. The official records, assignments, and all reports on officiating and officials shall be kept in the Conference office. The coordinators of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball officials shall be appointed by and under the direction of the Commissioner. The coordinators shall provide information concerning rule interpretations and mechanics of officiating; and approve, assign and evaluate officials for these sports. *[Revised 6/1/01]*

30.20.1.3 Commissioner's Regulations for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball Officiating. The Commissioner shall publish and keep current the Commissioner's Regulations for baseball, men's and women's basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball officiating in the Southeastern Conference. After approval by the Executive Committee, these regulations shall establish the procedures for officiating the aforementioned sports. Recommendations for revisions shall be received by the Commissioner from the officials, the coaches and other institutional representatives. No substantive revisions, however, shall become effective until approved by the Executive Committee. *[Revised 6/1/01]*

30.20.2 Officiating for Sports Other than Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball.

30.20.2.1 Regular-Season Competition. The approval and assignment of officials for regular-season competition of all sports, other than baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball shall be the responsibility of the host institution. *[Revised 6/1/01]*

30.20.2.2 Conference Championships. The approval and assignment of officials for Conference championships and tournaments shall be coordinated between the responsible coaches' committee and the host institution. Final approval for the assignment and selection of the officials for these championships and tournaments must be received from the Commissioner's office.

30.20.3 Professional Sport Officials. An official who is connected in any manner with a professional sport or sports organization shall not be assigned by the Conference office or its coordinators to officiate in an intercollegiate athletic contest in the same sport in which the official is professionally affiliated. If an official is assigned to officiate and then becomes affiliated with a professional sport or sports organization in the same sport in which he/she was assigned to officiate, the individual will immediately be removed from the eligible list of officials. Any request for a waiver of this restriction should be addressed to the Commissioner.

30.21 TELEVISION

30.21.1 Basketball. All television shall conform to current SEC basketball television contracts.

30.21.2 Football. Football television and recording are governed by the following:

- (a) All telecasts of SEC football games are to be conducted in accordance with the current regulations and contracts of the Conference and in keeping with provisions of other entities to whom member institutions assign TV rights, except that no member institution may televise a game selected for a national or Conference syndicated package on an alternative television medium (including pay-per-view) without the approval of the Commissioner; and
- (b) No member of the Conference shall make motion pictures of football teams of other members except in games when their own team is participating.

30.22 PROVISIONS AND STANDARDS FOR CONFERENCE SPORTS

30.22.1 General Information.

30.22.1.1 Regulated Sports. At least one third of the member institutions of the Conference must sponsor teams in a sport for that sport to be regulated by the SEC and for a Conference champion to be declared. The sports currently regulated by the SEC are: Men's sports--baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track, outdoor track, swimming and tennis; Women's sports--basketball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

30.22.1.2 Varsity and Junior-Varsity Sports. Varsity and junior-varsity sports must satisfy the following:

- (a) Varsity and junior-varsity teams in all sports may be composed of freshmen and/or upper-classmen;
- (b) A student-athlete who participates on a team of one classification may not participate on a team of a different classification on the same day; and
- (c) An institution shall organize no more than one freshman or junior varsity team in any given sport.

30.22.1.3 Conference Championships. Conference championships are subject to the following:

- (a) A Conference champion shall be determined annually in each of the regulated varsity sports. The method of determining the Conference champion for each of these sports shall be provided for in the Commissioner's Regulations of each sport. When two institutions tie for a championship and no championship play-off is held, these institutions shall be declared co-champions; and
- (b) A member institution, which has been prohibited by the Southeastern Conference or the NCAA from participating in postseason competition in a given sport, shall not be eligible for a Conference championship and a Conference season-ending tournament in that sport for the duration of this prohibition.

30.22.1.4 Athletes-of-the-Year, Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Year and Community Service Leaders of the Year.

- (a) **Male and Female, Roy F. Kramer Athlete-of-the-Year Awards.** There shall be an award for the SEC Male and Female Athlete-of-the-Year. Each institution's Athletic Director will submit one nomination for each award. Each Athletic Director will receive one ballot for the male and one ballot for the female athlete-of-the-year. Each institution will cast one ballot for the male and one ballot for the female, and will not be allowed to vote for its own nominee. The SEC shall pay travel expenses for each Roy F. Kramer Athlete-of-the-Year award recipient and two members of each award recipient's family to attend the award presentation held in conjunction with the SEC Football Championship. *[Revised 6/3/05]*
- (b) **Male and Female, H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year.** There shall be a postgraduate scholarship award for the SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year. Each institution shall

nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the award, with the ultimate selection of the two winners being made by the Faculty Athletics Representative Selection Committee. Twenty-two additional awards, entitled SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Awards, shall be given each academic year to the institutional nominees not selected as the SEC Male and Female Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year. The SEC Male and Female Scholar –Athlete-of-the-Year shall each be awarded a \$15,000 scholarship. The SEC Postgraduate Scholarship Award recipients shall each receive a \$7,500 scholarship. The SEC shall pay travel expenses for each H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year award recipient and two members of each award recipient’s family to attend the award presentation held in conjunction with the SEC annual spring meetings. *[Revised 6/3/05; Revised 5/29/98 effective June 1, 1998]*

- (c) **Male and Female, Brad Davis Community Service Leaders of the Year.** There shall be a postgraduate scholarship award for the SEC Male and Female Community Service Leaders of the Year who demonstrate the most outstanding and meritorious community service achievements during their entire college careers. Each institution shall nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the award, with the ultimate selection of the two winners being made by the Faculty Athletics Representatives Selection Committee. Twenty-two additional awards shall be given each academic year to the institutional nominees not selected as the SEC Brad Davis Community Service Leaders of the Year. The Male and Female SEC Brad Davis Community Service Leaders of the Year shall each receive a \$6,000 scholarship. The Community Service Scholarship recipients shall each receive a \$3,000 scholarship. The SEC shall pay travel expenses for each Brad Davis Community Service Leader of the Year award recipient and two members of each award recipient’s family to attend the award presentation held in conjunction with the SEC annual spring meetings. *[Revised 6/1/01; Revised 6/3/05]*

30.22.1.5 Playing Conditions. Playing conditions at SEC contests are governed by the following:

- (a) The host institution is charged with the responsibility of providing satisfactory playing conditions, providing the best possible protection for the public and officials, and using its facilities for producing an atmosphere of good sportsmanship. The Commissioner will periodically distribute information regarding crowd-control procedures;
- (b) Contests televised under Conference television contracts shall have game times established in accordance with those contracts. For all other contests, except as noted in the Commissioner’s Regulations, the host institution shall set the starting times of contests and so notify the visiting team well in advance;
- (c) Other than football contests played on the campus of an institution with a traditional institutional noise maker, artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into or used in any sports venue during games between Southeastern Conference institutions. Each institution should have statements printed on tickets and notices to the effect that such noisemakers will not be permitted inside its competition areas. Penalties for violations of this provision are set forth in the Commissioner’s Regulations for each sport; *[Revised 6/1/02; Revised 6/4/2010; Effective 6/4/2010-6/15/2011]*
- (d) At football games the use of amplifiers, microphones and megaphones shall be restricted to the cheerleaders of the institutions participating, directed only toward the stands and shall not be used from the time the offensive team breaks the huddle until the ball has been snapped. Additionally, the use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems (including music), institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and any traditional institutional noise maker shall be restricted to pre-game, halftime, post-game, called team or media timeouts or after a score. Bands shall not play from the time the offensive team breaks the huddle until the ball has been snapped. In no case may music be played which may be construed to be derogatory toward the visiting team or the game officials. Physical distractions (e.g., artificial noisemakers, portable amplifiers or the main stadium public address) shall not be used by cheerleaders while either team is on the field (warm-ups or competition); An institution shall submit to the Commissioner an annual use plan explaining how traditional institutional noise makers shall be governed to ensure compliance with SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5 (d). Penalties for use of traditional institutional noise makers in violation of this provision or failure to adhere to the institution’s management plan for traditional

institutional noise makers shall be set forth in the Commissioner's Regulations governing the sport of football; and *[Revised 6/4/2010; Effective 6/4/2010-6/15/2011]*

- (e) At basketball games the use of institutionally controlled computerized sound systems, institutionally controlled artificial noisemakers and the play of bands shall be restricted to pre-game, 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.

30.22.1.6 Professional Competition. Other than baseball, teams of Conference institutions shall not engage in games with professional teams.

30.22.1.7 Football Game Contracts. Settlement of all football game contracts shall be made no later than January 31, following the close of the season.

ADMINISTRATIVE BYLAW, ARTICLE 31

Executive Regulations

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The Southeastern Conference Executive Committee has issued the following policy statement relative to these revenues: All basketball and football revenues received by the member institutions which are to be sent to the Conference office for further distribution should be received in the Conference office within 40 days of receipt by the institution or by April 1 whichever is earlier. Any such revenue received after April 1 shall be remitted within 10 days after receipt by the institution.

31.20 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - BASKETBALL

31.20.1 Distribution of Revenue Generated by Basketball. The following basketball revenue received by the Conference office for distribution each year shall be divided into 13 equal shares with one share being retained by the Conference office and one share being distributed to each member institution.

- (a) Basketball Television - All revenue derived from national network and national cable basketball telecasts will be divided by the following formula: *[Revised 6/1/95]*
 - (1) All revenue shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share being distributed to each member institution and one share being distributed to the Conference. *[Revised 6/1/995; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*
- (b) NCAA Men’s Championship Basketball Tournament - Each member institution shall receive \$15 per mile one-way from its campus to the competition site for each round of the tournament in which they participate. In addition, each member institution shall receive \$50,000 for appearing in the First and Second Round, an additional \$50,000 for appearing in the Regional Round and an additional \$100,000 for appearing in the Final Four. Funds from the participation pool of the Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament shall be used to provide these payments. All remaining revenue from the NCAA Basketball Tournament from the participation pool, sports sponsorship pool and the grant-aid-pool shall be divided into 13 equal shares with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference office. *[Revised 5/29/98 effective June 1, 1998; Revised 6/2/00; Revised 5/30/03]*
- (c) Southeastern Conference Men’s Basketball Tournament. Revenues received by the Conference office each year for the Men’s Basketball Tournament shall be divided as follows: *[Revised 5/29/98 effective 6/1/1998]*
 - (1) Any revenue above full expenses of the participating teams as set forth in the Commissioner’s Regulations shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference.
- (d) Southeastern Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament. Revenues received by the Conference office each year for Women’s Basketball shall be divided as follows: *[Revised 6/1/98]*
 - (1) Any revenue above full expenses of the participating teams as set forth in the Commissioner’s Regulations shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference.

31.21 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - FOOTBALL

31.21.1 Distribution of Bowl Game Receipts. Distribution of revenue (after allowable deductions) generated from member institutions participating in bowl games shall be as follows: *[Revised 6/1/95; Revised 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006]*

- (a) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance of less than \$1,500,000, the participating institution shall retain \$925,000, plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 13 equal shares with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. *[Revised 6/1/02; Revised 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*
- (b) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance between \$1,500,000 and \$3,999,999, the participating institution shall retain \$1,125,000, plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. *[Revised 6/1/02; Revised 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*
- (c) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance between \$4,000,000 and \$5,999,999, the participating institution shall retain \$1,325,000, plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. *[Revised 6/1/02; Revised 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*
- (d) For bowl games providing receipts which result in a balance of \$6,000,000 or more, the participating institution shall receive \$1,825,000 (\$1,925,000 if the SEC team is a participant in the Bowl Championship Series game which determines the National Championship), plus a travel allowance as determined by the SEC Executive Committee. The remainder shall be remitted to the Commissioner and shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share to the Conference and one share to each member institution. *[Revised 6/1/02; Revised 6/2/06; effective 8/1/2006; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*
- (e) Bowl Revenue Protection Insurance and the cost of unused tickets up to 3,000 tickets for games with a ticket guarantee under 15,000 tickets and up to 4,000 tickets for games with a ticket guarantee of 15,000 tickets or above, shall be deducted prior to Conference distribution. *[Adopted 6/1/02; Revised and Effective 6/4/2010]*

31.21.2 Distribution of Football Television Receipts. Distribution of revenue generated from football television shall be as follows: *[Revised 6/1/96]*

- (a) A member institution appearing in a non-conference home game or a conference vs. conference game played on a non-traditional playing date to meet contractual commitments or to accommodate a request by the Conference office shall receive an appearance fee of \$200,000 as the home team; and *[Revised 6/4/04; Revised 6/1/2007; Revised 5/29/09; effective 8/1/2009]*
- (b) All remaining revenue shall be divided into 13 equal shares with one share being distributed to each member institution and one share being distributed to the Conference.

31.21.3 Football Championship Game Revenue. All revenue remaining from the championship game after expenses of planning and conducting the event have been deducted shall be divided as follows: *[Revised 6/3/93]*

- (a) Each participating institution shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of transporting an official party of 150 (including student-athletes, coaches, administrators, cheerleaders, bands, etc.) to the site (air or bus travel from campus to the site; local transportation is not included). This amount shall be approved in advance by the Conference office and must be supported by actual invoices. In addition, each participating institution shall receive \$225,000 to cover all costs associated with institutional lodging, meals, local transportation and all other expenses related to the championship. Each participating institution will be financially responsible for payment for 150 rooms for two nights at the designated team headquarters hotel; *[Revised 6/1/95; Revised 6/1/96; Revised 6/3/05]*

- (b) Each participating institution shall receive a band/cheerleader travel allowance of \$50 per mile, one-way from its campus to the site (according to Rand-McNally Mileage Chart). Each institution shall be financially responsible for 100 rooms for two nights at its designated band hotel; *[Revised 6/1/95; Revised 6/1/96; Revised 6/1/2007]*
- (c) All remaining revenue shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share distributed to each member institution and one share to the Conference office; and
- (d) Institutions may petition to the Executive Committee prior to the game for an increase in the travel allowance only in the event actual expenses exceed the designated amount.

31.22 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - BASEBALL

31.22.1 Distribution of Revenue Generated by Baseball. Revenues received by the Conference office each year for baseball shall be divided as follows:

- (a) SEC Baseball Tournament - All guaranteed revenues shall be divided as follows:
 - (1) Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for up to 30 individuals for each day the institution plays a game. The per diem revenue will be paid on a percentage basis of available funds;
 - (2) Each participating institution shall receive a travel allowance of \$30 per mile one-way. The travel allowance will be paid on a percentage basis of available funds; and
 - (3) Any revenue above full expenses of the participating teams shall be divided into 13 equal shares, with one share to each member institution and one share to the Conference.

31.23 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION - ALL OTHER SPORTS

31.23.1 Distribution of Revenue Generated by Other Sports. Revenues received by the Conference office each year for all other sports shall be divided as follows:

SEC – Net Revenues from SEC championships (other than football, men's and women's basketball, and baseball) either bid, or held at a neutral or off-campus site, shall be divided as follows: one share to the Conference office, remaining revenue shall be divided evenly among institutions which sponsor teams in that particular sport.

31.24 AUTOMATIC RESTRICTION AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE FUNDS

31.24.1 Restriction Against Participating in Distribution of Conference Funds. Member institutions prohibited by the NCAA or the SEC from appearing on television programs and/or from participating in postseason football or basketball competition shall not be entitled to participate in the distribution of respective Conference funds derived from these sources during the period of such prohibition.

31.24.2 Escrow of Funds. All funds, except for the provisions of Bylaws 31.22.1 and 31.23.1 hereof, which would otherwise have been paid to the member institution involved shall be held in escrow by the SEC until the end of the five-year repeat-violation provision of the NCAA. Thereupon, the institution involved will be restored an amount equal to 50% of the funds previously placed in escrow, provided the institution has not had a major violation within the past five years which has resulted in sanctions prohibiting the institution from sharing in the Conference's revenue distribution. Prior to such restoration, the Executive Committee may authorize the use of such portion of these funds as needed to compensate the other member institutions for any loss of revenue which results from contractual penalties that may be assessed against the Conference as a result of the involved member institution's inability to participate in Conference television or post-season

events as a result of NCAA sanctions. The remaining 50% of the funds shall become the property of the SEC free and clear of all claims of the member institution involved and shall be distributed in equal shares to the remaining member institutions. An institution shall be permitted to defer the onset of revenue distribution withholding until the fiscal year following announcement of sanctions. [6/1/96; Revised 6/3/05]

ADMINISTRATIVE BYLAW, ARTICLE 32

Enforcement Policies and Procedures

The Southeastern Conference adheres to the enforcement policies and procedures specified in this bylaw of the NCAA Manual.