

BASEBALL

Conference Office Liaisons. The following SEC staff members are the designated liaisons for baseball: Tournament – Charles Bloom/Craig Mattox; Coaches – Charles Bloom; Media Relations – Chuck Dunlap; Officiating – Tony Thompson/Sylvia Hagan/Charles Bloom

REGULAR-SEASON COMPETITION

Artificial Noisemakers. [SEC Bylaw 30.22.1.5c] (See General Administration section of Commissioner’s Regulations)

Penalties for Violations – The game umpires shall be responsible for enforcing the Conference ban on artificial noisemakers utilizing the following procedures:

1. The first time the home plate umpire detects the significant use of artificial noisemakers by those in the crowd, he will call a timeout and request that the public address (PA) announcer make a verbal warning through the public address system.
2. On the second, and any subsequent incident involving the significant use of artificial noisemakers, a strike or ball shall be assessed against the offending institution, depending upon the team at bat.

Awards. (See Supplement A of General Administration section of Commissioner’s Regulations) In addition, the recipients of the post-season awards listed below will be selected as follows:

1. **All-SEC Team.** The coaches select 12 players for the first team and 12 for second team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). Each player receives two points for a first-team vote and one point for a second-team vote. The top vote getter at each position will be named first-team All-SEC; while the next will be named second-team All-SEC. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
2. **Freshman All-SEC Team.** The coaches select 12 players for the team. Each squad consists of the following - a first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop (or four infielders if specific infield positions do not have a nominee), catcher, three outfielders, designated hitter and three pitchers (one must be a relief pitcher). The top vote getter at each position will be named Freshman All-SEC. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
3. **Player of the Year.** Coaches vote during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
4. **Pitcher of the Year.** Coaches vote during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their first-team All-SEC team ballot. Each vote is worth one point. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
5. **Freshman of the Year.** Coaches vote during All-SEC process. The player they vote for must be listed on their All-SEC ballot. Each vote is worth one point. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
6. **Coach of the Year.** Coaches vote during All-SEC process. Each vote is worth one point. Coaches may not vote for themselves.
7. **Scholar-Athlete of the Year.** See General Administration section of Commissioner’s Regulations.
7. **Good Works Team.** See General Administration Section of Commissioner’s Regulations.
8. **Player of the Week.** The Conference office will select a “Player of the Week” from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information directors of the member institutions.

9. **Pitcher of the Week.** The Conference office will select a "Pitcher of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information directors of the member institutions.

10. **Freshman of the Week.** The Conference office will select a "Freshman of the Week" from nominations submitted to the Conference office by the sports information directors of the member institutions.

Baseballs. The home team shall deliver a supply of official SEC baseballs to be prepared by the umpires prior to the start of the game.

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

Coaches Committee. The 2006-2007 coaches chair will be Arkansas. The order of rotation in subsequent years will be as follows: Auburn (2007-08), Florida (2008-09) and Georgia (2009-10).

Conference Tournament. The following applies to the Conference tournament:

1. The team with the highest percentage of wins during the regular-season Conference schedule shall be the Conference champion. The teams with the highest percentage of wins during the regular-season Conference schedule shall be declared division champions. If two or more teams are tied with the highest percentage of wins, they shall be declared division co-champions and/or Conference co-champions. Final division standings will be determined by the won-loss percentage in the regular-season Conference schedule.
2. There shall be a Conference tournament at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season. This Conference tournament shall be used to determine the automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament. The tournament shall be conducted under the guidelines outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations for baseball.

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

Departure Time (Sunday). Prior to the start of the regular season schedule, the visiting head coach must notify the proper game management official (who will notify the umpire in chief) at the competition site and the SEC office of his team's designated departure time from the facility on the third day of each Conference series (Sunday). If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game shall start no later than 1 p.m. local time. If a contest is called due to travel arrangements, the following procedures will be used:

1. No half-inning shall start with less than 15 minutes remaining until the designated departure time.
2. If the contest is called and is a regulation game according to NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest and all averages will count in the final playing record.
3. The contest will be considered a regulation tie game if it meets the conditions set forth in NCAA Rule 5.10 and all averages will count in the final playing record.
4. If the contest is called prior to reaching regulation game status per NCAA Rule 5.8, the contest will be considered "No Game" (NCAA Rule 5.12).
5. Teams shall not stay over Sunday night, in order not to miss classes on Monday. A school may request a waiver from the Conference office in a situation when school is out of session.

In all travel situations, the visiting team should make arrangements to depart via the last available flight, bus, etc., leaving that day which will connect to the visitor's final destination. In no case shall the departure time of umpires be a factor in completing games on Sunday.

Dugouts. During a game, no one except players in uniform, coaches, managers, trainers, physicians, scorekeepers and bat persons shall occupy a team's dugout.

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

Inclement Weather. The inclement weather policy is as follows:

1. If a game is suspended on Friday or Saturday, the game shall be completed from the point of interruption on the following day prior to the regularly scheduled game. In the event the regularly scheduled game is to be televised, the continued game may be played afterward.
2. If a suspended game is resumed on Saturday, it shall be nine innings followed by the regularly-scheduled Saturday nine-inning game.
3. If a suspended game is resumed on Sunday, the regularly scheduled game shall be seven innings.
4. If a suspended game is unable to be completed because of inclement weather and has reached official game status (five innings or more per NCAA Rule 5.6), it will be declared a game.
5. Once a suspended game is resumed, the game will be complete if one team has a lead of 10 or more runs after seven innings of play (NCAA Rule 5.8).
6. If weather prevents playing both the Friday and Saturday games, or if the Saturday game does not begin because of rain, there shall be two seven-inning games on Sunday. If a Friday game is suspended and no games are played on Saturday, the suspended game shall be resumed on Sunday, followed by a seven-inning game.
7. In the event of rain on Friday or Saturday, no game may start after 10 p.m. local time or resume after midnight local time.
8. In the event of a rain-delay prior to the beginning of play on Sunday, the game must begin at least two hours and thirty minutes prior to the visiting team's scheduled departure time from the field, but no later than 4 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game. (See Departure Time of this section.)

If the game begins and is delayed, it must resume by 6 p.m. local time to avoid a rain out of the game.

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

In the event the visiting team is not scheduled to leave the host city until Monday and there are no prior travel limitations for the game's umpires that would dictate departure to enact these deadlines, with Conference approval, it would be permissible to waive the 4 p.m. deadline for the start of a game and a 6 p.m. deadline for the resumption of the game.

9. If weather forecasts on Friday or Saturday morning call for a high occurrence of inclement weather on Sunday, the home team with approval of the visiting team may request permission from the Conference office to play a doubleheader on Saturday. Approval of a prospective Saturday doubleheader would be given no earlier than Saturday morning and shall be limited to circumstances where there is a high likelihood that weather will not permit a game to be played on the final day of the series. This does not apply for possible inclement weather on Friday or Saturday of a weekend series.
10. The umpire-in-chief has sole authority to suspend, postpone or cancel the game if conditions become unfit for play.
11. Each member institution shall be responsible for having the capability to determine when lightning strikes are within specified distances from the competition site. When lightning is detected within 10 miles of the competition site, home team game management shall utilize the public address system to inform those in attendance that inclement weather including lightning is within 10 miles and that should patrons vacate the facility for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub. When lightning is detected within six (6) miles of the competition site, the competition shall be suspended. Competition may be resumed when lightning is no longer within the six-mile range.

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

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

1. Mascots may be on the field prior to the start of the game, but only when such action involves the team represented by said mascot.
2. Mascots may not be on the field at anytime once the game begins. Exception: During the seventh inning stretch, a mascot is allowed to be in front of the team dugout that the mascot represents, and/or may participate in a seventh inning stretch promotion (e.g. running the bases).
3. At no time are mascots allowed to direct uncomplimentary attention toward the opposing team, its fans, players, coaches or the umpires.

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

Officiating. The Conference office will assign umpires for all home Conference contests. The Conference office will oversee the scheduling of assignments for all home non-conference games through a regional coordinator selected by each institution.

Practice.

1. **Traditional Segment.** Practice may start as early as the first day of classes after the Christmas holidays.
2. **Nontraditional Segment.** There shall be only intra-squad games during the fall season, except that a maximum of ten practice days against outside competition (not to exceed 20 games) is permitted within the nontraditional season, provided all practice games against outside competition are played on the home campus of the SEC institution. All games played in non-traditional segment shall count within the 56 maximum game limit.

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

1. Each institution will play a 30-game Conference schedule. This schedule will include 3-game series with all five division members each year and five non-division members on a two-year rotation basis. The dates and sites for the 30-game Conference schedule shall be set by administrative action of the Conference.
2. Each game shall be scheduled for nine innings and shall be played at least nine innings except when inclement weather or travel constraints are taken into account. There is no 10-run rule in effect for Conference vs. Conference games. In non-conference games, by mutual consent of both head coaches, a game may be stopped only after seven innings if a team is ahead by at least 10 runs.
3. Conference series will be played with single games on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Saturday and a single game on Sunday. The final Conference series of the season shall be played with single games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, unless the stadium does not have lights, and in which case there will be two games on Friday and a single game on Saturday.
4. A team may not stay over to Monday to start or complete a Conference game or series.
5. Conference doubleheaders may only be played on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday doubleheaders shall be seven inning games and shall only be played if games on Friday and/or Saturday are rained out.
6. Non-Conference games, which are not played because of inclement weather, may be rescheduled by the member institution, or a different non-Conference opponent may be scheduled, provided all NCAA minimum scheduling requirements are met.

7. Non-Conference games may be scheduled to replace Conference games not played due to inclement weather, provided all NCAA minimum scheduling requirements are met. These games shall not count as Conference games in league standings.

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

Starting Times. The home team shall establish the starting time for all Conference games. Friday games shall start no earlier than 6 p.m. local time. Sunday games shall start no later than 2 p.m. local time. If the visiting team is utilizing air travel and has set a departure time, a Sunday game shall start no later than 1 p.m. local time.

Squad Size. The home team may dress 30 student-athletes in uniform, but only 25 student-athletes shall be allowed to participate in a series. The participating squad for the series must be declared prior to the first series game and shall not be changed during the course of the series. The visiting team will be allowed to dress in uniform only 25 student-athletes (See Bylaw Figure 17-1). No other student-athletes in uniform will be allowed on the playing field within two hours prior to the start of the game. Further, the number of coaches dressed out on the playing field and/or in the dugout area shall conform to NCAA regulations.

Tickets. The home team shall provide up to 50 complimentary tickets to the visiting team for each game in a Conference series. The visiting team must notify the home team of its needs no later than 3 p.m. on the Monday prior to the weekend series.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Coaches Administrative Teleconference. A teleconference will be conducted with the participating tournament coaches prior to the start of the tournament to review policies and procedures.

Dates. The tournament will be played in late May, one week prior to the start of the NCAA championship. The site of the tournament will be determined by a vote of the Athletics Directors. Future dates are:

2007	May 23-27	Hoover, AL (Hoover Metropolitan Stadium)
2008	May 21-25	Hoover, AL (Hoover Metropolitan Stadium)
2009	May 20-24	Hoover, AL (Hoover Metropolitan Stadium)
2010	May 26-30	Hoover, AL (Hoover Metropolitan Stadium)

Format. There shall be an 8-team, double-elimination Conference tournament (the "Omaha format") which includes the two top teams from each division (as determined by winning percentage) and the next six teams from either division with the best winning percentage in Conference play at the conclusion of the Southeastern Conference regular season. The tournament shall begin on Wednesday and conclude with a single championship game on Sunday. The Conference tournament shall be used to determine the automatic qualifier to the NCAA tournament.

Length of Game. All games shall be nine innings, unless a team holds at least a 10-run lead after seven innings of play, at which time the game shall be declared complete. This provision does not apply to the championship game.

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

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

1. **Two-Team Tie.** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
 - A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two tied teams.
 - B. If two-teams are divisional opponents:
 - (1) Won-lost percentage within their division (over the 15-game SEC division schedule).

- (2) Won-lost percentage of the two teams versus the No. 1 team in their division (and proceeding through the No. 6 team, if necessary).

C. If two teams are not divisional opponents:

- (1) Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed using common opponents only (and proceeding through the No. 8 seed, if necessary).
- (2) Coin flip by the Commissioner.

2. **Three-Team Tie (or more).** The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: (Note: If the three tied teams have three different records against each other, they shall be seeded in best-percentage order.) Otherwise, once the tie has been reduced to two teams, the two-team tiebreaker procedure will be used.

- A. If all three teams are common opponents: Total won-lost percentage of games played among the tied teams.
- B. Won-lost percentage of the tied teams versus the No. 1 seed and proceeding through the No. 8 seed, if necessary, using common opponents only.
- C. If three or more teams still are tied, the Commissioner will conduct a draw.

Team Expenses and Allowances. Each participating institution will be provided a per diem of \$75 per day for 30 individuals for each day the institution plays a game plus two per diems. (Note: Institutions in the winner's bracket that have an "off" day will receive a per diem for that day.) A travel allowance of \$30 per mile (one-way) or \$5,000, whichever is greater, will be paid to each participating institution.

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