

## MINUTES

### The Men's Basketball Head Coaches & Committee of the Southern Conference

Southern Conference Office  
Spartanburg, S.C.

May 15, 2019

Those in attendance:

Duggar Baucom, The Citadel  
Steve Forbes, East Tennessee State University  
Bob Richey, Furman University  
Greg Gary, Mercer University  
Jim Cole, AD, Mercer University (Men's Basketball Committee)  
Mike Roberts, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (for Wes Miller)  
Kim Record, AD, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Scott Padgett, Samford University  
Martin Newton, AD, Samford University (Men's Basketball Committee Chair)  
Lamont Paris, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Dan Earl, Virginia Military Institute  
Mark Prosser, Western Carolina University  
AJ Grube, FAR, Western Carolina University (Men's Basketball Committee)  
Jay McAuley, Wofford College  
Richard Johnson, AD, Wofford College  
Elizabeth Rabb, SWA, Wofford College (Men's Basketball Committee)  
John Iamarino, Commissioner, Southern Conference  
Geoff Cabe, Senior Associate Commissioner, Southern Conference (recording secretary)  
Jason Yaman, Associate Commissioner, Southern Conference  
Phil Perry, Assistant Commissioner, Southern Conference

The meeting began at approximately 10 a.m. (Eastern)

1. Topic: Previous Minutes  
Issue: The group reviewed the minutes from its May 29-30, 2018 meeting  
Action: **It was VOTED (Motion – Padgett; Second – Earl; Unanimous) “That the minutes be approved as submitted.”**
2. Topic: SoCon Officiating Program  
Issue: The group discussed the SoCon officiating program with Mike Wood, Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials. The coaches noted that their biggest concern with the officiating program was a lack of in-game communication from some officials. Mr. Wood said that communication would be a major emphasis at his pre-season clinic. Mr. Wood informed the group that he has contacted six officials with NCAA Tournament experience that did not work for the conference last year but have agreed to work 6-8 games during the 2019-20 season. Mr. Wood would like for the head coaches to list their top 10 officials and bottom 10 officials from last season's roster and send that information to him within the next 30 days. The group discussed the fact that the Southern Conference was one of only two Division I conferences not currently in an officiating consortium. Mr. Wood stated that he didn't think that a consortium worked very well at the mid-major level. The head coaches were asked to contact their peers in other mid-major conferences and ask them how they think a consortium is working for their conference.  
Action: **No formal action.**

**Men's Basketball Head Coaches & Committee**

3. Topic: Commissioner's Items  
Issue: Commissioner John Iamarino reported to the group on several topics impacting the conference. He discussed the status of the conference's ESPN agreement, which has two more years remaining. The coaches stated their desire to see more national or regional linear coverage of conference games. It was noted that the conference is planning on working with a consulting group to help navigate the landscape of digital and linear broadcast options ahead of its next contract. The coaches stated that their first preference would be linear exposure, but that if that wasn't possible, the conference should look to monetize its rights as much as possible. Commissioner Iamarino also reported to the group that the NCAA was investigating expanding the field for the NIT by 8 teams with two games taking place on Selection Sunday and two more the day after.
- Action:** **No formal action.**
4. Topic: NCAA Presentation on Commission on College Basketball Reforms  
Issue: The group received a presentation from Jenn Fraser of the NCAA on the implementation and status of reforms approved after the completion of the Commission on College Basketball, otherwise known as the Rice Commission. The following was noted by Ms. Fraser regarding reforms: (a) outside income – any outside income over \$600 that is not part of a coach's contract has to be reported to a school's Chancellor or President; (b) degree completion program – beginning August 1, schools must have a degree completion program in place for former men's basketball student-athletes who wish to return to school and who spent at least two years in a school's program, did not go to another institution and left in compliance with degree completion requirements. This opportunity is to be made available to former student-athletes who left the institution within the past 10 years; (c) agents – it is now permissible for student-athletes to have agreements with agents related to the exploration of the NBA Draft. These agreements have to be in writing and on file with their institution and must cease when a student-athlete decides to return to school. It is not permissible for prospective student-athletes to have agreements with agents, but it may become permissible in the future if the NBA changes its rules; (d) recruiting calendar – changes to the recruiting calendar have been made to minimize harmful opportunities and maximize collaboration with the NBA. Major changes include reserving the month of June for evaluations at the NBAPA Top 100 Camp and scholastic events certified with the NFHS and two-year athletics governing bodies, July being reserved for evaluations at NCAA Youth Development Camps and non-scholastic events, and the addition of four more recruiting days in the month of April. It was noted that the NCAA has created a certification process for non-NFHS events; (e) non-coaching staff members – a recommendation allowing current non-coaching staff members to have limited coaching duties was not approved, however, a second survey of the topic with the NCAA membership is currently being conducted.
- Action:** **No formal action. The coaches expressed concern with the status and pace of NCAA investigations into schools that were alleged to have been involved in wrongdoing during the recent federal trials. Ms. Fraser suggested that the coaches could have a conference call with NCAA enforcement to be updated on the status of NCAA infractions cases arising out of these trials.**

5. Topic: Men's Basketball MTE Options  
Issue: The group discussed its preferences for the NCAA Oversight Committee's recommendations regarding scheduling criteria for exempt Multi-Team Events (MTEs). The Oversight Committee is proposing allowing schools to schedule 29 regular season games or (a) 28 games and one MTE event not to exceed three games, or (b) 28 games and one MTE not to exceed three games or 29 games and one MTE not to exceed two games.  
**Action:** **The group expressed its support for the concept allowing either a three-game or two-game MTE. They also stated that they do not favor the events being required to be bracketed events.**
6. Topic: SoCon Men's Basketball Enhancement Pool  
Issue: Geoff Cabe informed the group that Wofford's recent win in the NCAA Tournament will re-fund the conference's Men's Basketball Enhancement Pool for the next six years (beginning in 2019-20) as one half of the monies earned from that win will be dedicated for that purpose. Schools will receive units for (a) scheduling a minimum of three Division I non-conference home games with teams ranked 265 or better in the previous year's NET or a combination of five Division I non-conference home and neutral site games; (b) having a .500 or better won-loss percentage in all Division I non-conference games; (c) finishing 175 or better in the final NET rankings; or (d) improving its final NET ranking from the previous year by at least 15 percent. It was noted that the Athletics Directors would decide the financial value of each unit.  
**Action:** **No formal action.**
7. Topic: Synergy Sports Technology  
Issue: The coaches stated there were more problems this past season than in years past with Synergy Sports related to uploading games to the system in a timely manner, customer service callbacks, and cut-up versions of games being posted slower than in years past. The coaches also stated they are being required to purchase the Synergy editor despite almost everyone using a different editor.  
**Action:** **No formal action. Geoff Cabe stated that he would contact Synergy to address the various issues related to this past season and report back to the group.**
8. Topic: Shootaround/practice procedures related to home team camera and video equipment  
Issue: Commissioner Iamarino reported that there were several instances last year where complaints were made to the conference office that visiting teams had unplugged home team camera and video equipment related to broadcast production or replay during practices and shootarounds.  
**Action:** **It was AGREED**  
**"That visiting teams should not touch any video equipment in home team venues and that it should be understood that none of the equipment is being utilized for scouting purposes and would be considered an egregious violation of conference sportsmanship polices if that was the case."**

9. Topic: NCAA Rules Committee Report  
Issue: Richard Johnson updated the group on the recommendations of the May 7-10 NCAA Rules Committee meeting and likely rules changes for the 2019-20 season. Among the recommendations are (a) the move of the three-point line to the international distance; (b) the re-set of the shot clock to 20 seconds on offensive rebounds; and (c) the ability for video review of goaltending in the final two minutes. It was also noted that the Committee wanted to reiterate that no music or sound effects are permissible during men's basketball games except during timeouts, intermission and during monitor reviews by officials.  
**Action: No formal action.**
10. Topic: NCAA Sports Wagering – Player Availability Reporting  
Issue: It was discussed that the NCAA is investigating whether to require schools to report player availability prior to games as a reaction to legalized sports wagering. It was noted that there would be no requirements to do so during the 2019-20 season.  
**Action: No formal action.**
11. Topic: SoCon Tournament Recap  
Issue: Geoff Cabe informed the group that the final financial report from the 2019 SoCon Tournament was expected to be much higher than in years past as walk-up ticket sales were approximately \$45,000 higher than last year and local sponsorships also increased. Mr. Cabe asked the group to provide to him any feedback or concerns regarding their experiences at the tournament.  
**Action: No formal action.**
12. Topic: Men's Basketball Sport Regulations  
Issue: The group reviewed the conference's current Sport Regulations for men's basketball.  
**Action: No changes to the current regulations were recommended.**
13. Topic: NABC Congress and RAC representatives  
Issue: The conference will need to replace its representatives on the NABC Congress (Mike Young) and Regional Advisory Committee (Bob Hoffman)..  
**Action: Coaches interested in the Regional Advisory Committee appointment should contact the conference office. Samford's Scott Padgett subsequently volunteered and was appointed to serve on the NABC Congress.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

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