



2020 Tennis

Regular-Season Regulations

1.0 Sponsorship

1.1 The following member institutions sponsor tennis as a varsity intercollegiate sport:

The Citadel (men only)
East Tennessee State University
Furman University
Mercer University
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Samford University
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Western Carolina University (women only)
Wofford College

2.0 Regular-Season Competition

2.1 **Scheduling:** NCAA policies regarding scheduling requirements are the official policies of the Southern Conference.

2.1.1 **Conference Scheduling:** Each institution shall play all members of the Conference one time in a conference match during the regular season. The Southern Conference office shall produce a league master schedule. The master schedule shall include only the home and away sequence of each team's Conference schedule. Teams shall mutually agree on playing dates. Conference matches may not take place prior to January 1. Teams reserve the right to make changes to the location of matches as long as participating athletics directors are agreeable to the moves. Conference regular-season matches cannot be originally scheduled after the Saturday prior to the conference tournament. However, matches may be played after that date for make-up purposes. Match start times and locations shall be the prerogative of the home institution.

2.2 **Championship Determination:** The Southern Conference champion shall be the team that finishes with the best won-loss percentage in Conference matches during the regular season. In the case that two or more institutions finish with identical won-loss records, they shall be declared co-champions.

2.3 **Regular-Season Finish:** League standings in the regular season shall determine the seeding position of teams into the Southern Conference Tournament. League standings shall be determined by each team's won-loss record in all conference matches during the regular season. Ties for seeding purposes shall be broken using the Southern Conference tie-breaking system.

2.4 **Playing Rules:** Playing rules as adopted by the NCAA and Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) shall be in effect for all Southern Conference matches.

2.5 **Match Format:** All Southern Conference matches shall consist of six singles and three doubles matches. All singles matches shall be best-of-three sets. All doubles matches shall be six-game sets. All singles matches shall count as one point for the institution winning the match. The institution winning two of three doubles matches shall be awarded one point. No-ad scoring and a six-point tiebreaker shall be used in all singles and doubles matches.

2.5.1 **Match Order:** Doubles matches shall be played first, followed by singles matches.

2.5.2 **Declaring a Winner:** A match shall be considered won when one institution has accumulated four points. All singles and doubles matches should be played to completion, regardless of whether a team winner has been declared.

2.5.2.1 In all Conference matches, all matches shall be played to completion. Once the outcome of

the team match has been decided, a shortened format shall be played unless both coaches agree otherwise. Matches still in the second set shall play a Match Tiebreak to decide the third set. Any match already in the third set shall play that set to completion. A match that has not started shall be the best of three sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set.

- 2.6 Balls:** The Wilson Extra Duty U.S. Open ball will be used in all men's and women's conference matches. It is required that three new balls be used for warm-ups and for the first set. A new can of balls will be used for the second set and in the event of split sets. It is required that four new balls be used for each doubles pro-set.
- 2.7 Host Institution Responsibilities:** The host institution shall be responsible for assigning all courts and starting matches.
- 2.7.1 Required Equipment:** The home team shall provide the following items for a Conference match:
- A. Wilson Extra Duty US Open balls;
 - B. Cups, ice, water or isotonics in an area accessible to all players during competition;
 - C. Visible scorekeeping system for each court;
 - D. Singles sticks;
 - E. Twelve chairs (two to be used for competitors in singles matches and four to be used by competitors in doubles matches).
- 2.8 Pre-Match Format:** The court area shall be available at least one hour prior to a match to allow for warm-ups. Both teams shall be granted the same number of courts and the same length of time for warm-ups. All matches shall begin at agreed upon times (confirmed in writing by the head coach of the home team to the head coach of the visiting team). Once a player has been checked in for a match, he or she will have a maximum of 10 minutes of warm-up on court with their opponent (five minutes if both players have warmed up previously).
- 2.9 Score Reporting:** The home team shall be responsible for sending match results via fax or e-mail to the Conference office on the same day after the completion of a Conference match. The home team book shall be the official book for edification purposes.
- 2.10 Scouting Information:** Southern Conference teams shall not share scouting information on other Southern Conference teams with non-conference or other Conference institutions.
- 2.11 Complimentary Tickets:** The home team shall provide the visiting team with 50 complimentary tickets for each Conference match, provided that the home team is charging admission. The 50 complimentary tickets should be provided from a pass list given to the home institution by the visiting institution upon its arrival.
- 2.12 Student-Athlete Eligibility:** Each institution is responsible for having all of its student-athletes eligible prior to the season. All student-athlete eligibility profiles shall be transmitted to the Conference office prior to an institution's first day of competition. This information shall be filed and in accordance with the instructions of the Southern Conference Associate Commissioner for Compliance. If any questions arise, the Conference compliance administrator shall have the details on all student-athletes who are eligible for Conference regular-season and tournament competition.
- 2.13 Weather Decisions:** When weather conditions require a decision as to whether a match shall be started, the following procedure shall be used:
- A. When the visiting team is not on site, the host athletic director shall communicate with the visiting team's athletic director regarding impending adverse weather. The two athletic directors, with consultation from the conference office, will make the decision as to whether the visiting team will travel to the competition site and if the start time needs to be altered;
 - B. When both teams are on site, the host athletic director and game management designee shall determine whether it is safe to proceed with the scheduled contest. The host athletic director, with agreement from the visiting team's athletic director, will have the authority to adjust the start time of a contest to avoid adverse weather if possible;
 - C. Should bad weather or unfit conditions prevail during a match, the USTA (United States Tennis Association) certified official on site shall be the sole judge as to suspension, resumption, or termination of play.
 - D. Should bad weather or unfit conditions force the suspension of a match in progress and there is a disagreement as to whether the match can be continued outdoors, the following procedure will

be applied:

- (1) The teams will wait a maximum of 30 minutes to see if the courts can become playable;
- (2) After 30 minutes, the USTA certified official shall make a determination on whether the courts are playable;
- (3) If the USTA certified official determines that the courts are not playable after 30 minutes, the match should be continued indoors if appropriate ITA facilities are available and have been certified by the Conference office. (Weather policies adopted October, 2016)

2.13.1 Rainouts: In the event of a rainout or postponement of a match during the regular season, reasonable efforts shall be made to reschedule the match according to the following procedure (in order):

- a. If the match has not started and both teams are on site it shall be moved to an ITA approved indoor facility with at least 3 courts in an effort to complete the match that day.
- b. Play at another time or site as long as there is mutual consent of the head coaches.
- c. Play (as a last resort) just prior to the Conference tournament at the tournament site as long as there is mutual consent of the head coaches.
- d. In cases of not having available indoor facilities or there is a disagreement with all of the above procedures, the two participating athletic directors will select a mutually agreed-upon date and/or location for the match to be made up. In the event that the two institutions cannot reach a mutual decision, the conference Commissioner will select the date for the contest to be rescheduled. (*Weather/Rainout policies adopted, October 2016*)

3.0 Men's and Women's Tennis Committees

3.1 The Southern Conference Men's Tennis Committee shall consist of at least one athletics director, one faculty athletics representative, one senior woman administrator and one head coach. The Southern Conference Women's Tennis Committee shall consist of at least one athletics director, one faculty athletics representative, one senior woman administrator, and one head coach. The sport committees shall perform the following duties for their respective sports:

3.1.1 Review the sport regulations for either men's tennis or women's tennis;

3.1.2 Make recommendations to the Southern Conference Senior Woman Administrators Association and Athletics Directors Association as situations warrant;

3.1.3 Ensure that coaches are informed about league rules and matters affecting men's or women's tennis in the Southern Conference;

3.1.4 Conduct surveys, etc.;

3.1.5 Administer, in general, the sport of men's or women's tennis in the Southern Conference.

4.0 Head Coaches Meetings

4.1 Southern Conference head coaches shall meet once a year to address all matters relating to the sport of tennis and to make recommendations to the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Committees. This meeting shall normally take place in the month of August.

5.0 Officiating

5.1 Assignments: It is required that a minimum of two USTA/ITA certified officials be present at all Conference matches. The host institution is responsible for contracting officials and providing payment.

5.2 Uniforms: Officials' uniforms for Conference matches shall be in accordance with USTA policy (collared shirt, khaki pants or shorts, and white tennis shoes).

6.0 Match Management

- 6.1** The home athletics director (or his or her designee) shall serve as the match management director for all Southern Conference matches. It is suggested that the match management director visit briefly with the officials and the visiting head coach prior to a match to answer any questions and inform them of his or her availability. The home athletics director and/or match management director also has the direct responsibility for crowd control as outlined in the Southern Conference Sportsmanship Code Regulations.

7.0 Public Address Announcer

- 7.1** Only the designated public address announcer may use a microphone during a Southern Conference match. The public address announcer is responsible for whatever is said over the PA system. The primary function of the announcer is to give specific information to the fans, not to incite them by unnecessary inflection of voice.

8.0 Artificial Noisemakers

- 8.1** Artificial noisemakers (air horns, electronic amplifiers, whistles, etc.) of any kind are not permissible in Southern Conference venues. Such instruments shall be removed from the facility when discovered.

9.0 Signs

- 9.1** Signs of a derogatory nature directed towards an individual opponent, visiting team or match official are not permitted in Southern Conference venues. It is the responsibility of the home institution to ensure that such signs are immediately removed.

10.0 Motorized Vehicles, Explosive Devices, Mascots

- 10.1** The home athletics director shall decide the policy regarding the use of explosive devices (cannons, rifles, fireworks, etc.), mascots, and motorized vehicles at their facility. Visiting athletics directors need to request permission for the use of these items at least two weeks in advance and approval or disapproval of the request must be given immediately by the home athletics director. Use of motorized vehicles, explosive devices and mascots must conform to the rules of tennis decorum.

11.0 Conduct

- 11.1 Coaches' Conduct:** All head and assistant coaches are to conduct themselves in such a manner during a match as to ensure or promote good crowd control. They also are responsible for the conduct of their players and other staff. Coaches (head and assistant) must follow Southern Conference Sportsmanship Code Regulations at all times.

11.1.1 Tennis Sportsmanship Guidelines: The following guidelines have been developed to promote sportsmanship during Conference matches:

- A. First and foremost, a coach must control his or her own team. A coach must establish sportsmanship and demand it of his or her players. A coach must never condone cheating and must overrule his or her own team anytime erroneous calls are observed;
- B. Each coach should meet with any official who works a Conference match and encourage the official to be observant;
- C. The home coach must be willing to address the crowd in cases where crowd behavior becomes abusive or unsportsmanlike. This would include taunting but also cases where spectators are making distracting noises during play;
- D. A visiting coach should be smart and counsel his or her players wisely. Players should try to ignore the crowd and under no circumstances should they engage in conversations with spectators. This is a confrontation the visiting team can never win and makes crowd control all the more difficult for the officials and home coach;

11.1.2 On-Court Coaching: Coaching by the head coach and assistant coaches (one assistant coach for men's matches and two assistant coaches for women's matches) shall be permitted on court during a match provided it does not interfere with play. Coaching shall be allowed during the 20 seconds between points, as long as play is not interrupted, and during 90-second changeovers. Coaches shall not impede the pace of play or impede or interfere with play on adjacent courts.

Coaches must sit or stand near the net post except during the change of sides. On an empty adjacent court, the men's coaches may stand at the doubles sideline on the same side as his/her own player. On the opponent's side, he/she must remain at midcourt. Men's players and women's coaches and players must remain a half court away from matches in progress.

11.1.3 Ejection/Suspension Policy: A coach or player removed from a contest for any unsportsmanlike act shall be subject to potential disciplinary action by the conference office, including suspension from future contests. (Revised 5/19)

11.1.4 Unsportsmanlike Behavior: Acts of unsportsmanlike behavior or unethical conduct including but not limited to those described below shall make the offending party subject to sanctions by the conference.

11.1.4.1 Fighting: Any attempt by a person to strike an opponent or contest participant in a combative manner unrelated to the sport involved or any act that insults an opponent to retaliate by acting in a similar manner shall be described as unsportsmanlike behavior.

11.1.4.2 Aggressive Behavior: The use of obscene gestures, profane language, or the display of hostile action towards officials, spectators, or opponents shall be described as unsportsmanlike.

11.1.4.3 Ejection: The removal by an official from a competitive sport activity shall require the ejected participant to leave the vicinity of the competitive activity immediately.

11.1.4.4 Suspension: A penalty that denies the involved participant from being in the vicinity of the contest suspended from one hour prior to the scheduled contest until the conclusion of the contest. Suspension does not affect practice opportunities outside of the above time limitations.

11.1.4.5 Vicinity of Contest: The immediate area/site of the competition extended to include any point or place from which the ejected/suspended individual could observe, supervise, or participate in any manner in the contest from which the participant is being ejected or suspended.

11.1.4.6 Competitive Conditions: The failure of an institution to provide an environment for a contest that is safe and fair to competition shall be described as unsportsmanlike behavior.

11.1.4 Match Conduct Penalty System: In all conference matches, the ITA Point Penalty System shall be followed and administered by the officials. (Effective 10/13)

11.2 Bench Player Conduct: Bench players and team personnel will be held to a higher standard of sportsmanship, including no remarks to opposing players and no noise between 1st and 2nd serves, with a new warning/penalty structure for violations. (Approved from ITA in fall of 2016)

11.2.1 Bench Player Locations: All bench players must wear the team uniform. Bench players and team personnel must watch from the allowable area – as determined by referee and coaches pre-match. Once the adjacent court opens, bench players and personnel must move there. Men's players may now stand a half-court away like the women (Note: if there is no adjacent court, bench players may remain in their original area). (Approved from ITA in fall of 2016)

12.0 Lineups and Substitutions

12.1 Southern Conference institutions shall adhere to all ITA policies regarding team lineups and substitutions, with special emphasis on the following:

A. A team lineup should always be based on an institution's order of ability on a given day. "Matching up" is prohibited. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at No. 1 singles, the second best at No. 2 singles, and so on through all positions. In cases of injury or illness, all players must move up. This rule shall also apply to doubles play;

B. If a player is injured or ill for three weeks or longer, the coach should use his or her discretion in determining where to place the player in the team lineup. If the player has played the majority of his or

her matches at one position, he or she must be placed within two positions up or down to be within a "range";

- C. A player who has established a winning record at a team position in six team matches and whose ITA rankings and results show that he or she is clearly stronger than the players below them, may not be moved down;
- D. If a top-six player is clearly stronger than the player immediately above him or her, then the other player must be moved down;
- E. Players of similar ability may be allowed to move up or down between adjacent positions from one match to the next. They may alternate between adjacent positions so long as the alternating is not done for the purposes of "matching up" but rather for the purposes of maintaining "rank order";
- F. A player shall not be moved down in the lineup because of (1) an injury or illness which has lasted less than three weeks; (2) disciplinary reasons (although the player may be removed from the lineup altogether); (3) challenge matches after six team matches have been played after January 1;
- G. If an opposing coach feels that another team's lineup during the regular season is not fair, a protest must be made prior to the start of the match with both the opposing coach and head referee. The match shall then be played under protest. At the conclusion of the match it is the responsibility of the coach who protested to make the Conference office aware of the specifics of the protest. The tennis committee (including the ex-officio committee) will then handle any protest concerning a challenge in a conference match. No regular-season conference match may be protested subsequent to its completion. *(Approved 10/12)*

13.0 Changeovers

- 13.1 All breaks between games shall be 90 seconds in duration. Play shall be continuous between the second and third sets in singles should the second set end on a changeover. If the second set does not end on a changeover, play will be halted briefly for the players to obtain a new can of tennis balls. In the event of an injury on a changeover, USTA/ITA rules will apply.

14.0 Regular-Season Awards

- 14.1 The following awards shall be provided by the Conference and distributed to the appropriate institution following the conclusion of the Conference regular season:

14.1.1 Championship Trophy: Two trophies (one men's and one women's) shall be presented to the teams with the best won-loss percentage in conference matches;

14.1.2 All-Conference Team: Forty-eight plaques (24 men's and 24 women's) presented to the members of the All-Conference Teams. The All-Conference Teams shall be voted on by the head coaches and the balloting shall be conducted by the Conference office. A student-athlete must have played at least 50 percent of conference matches at a position to be considered for first and second team all-conference awards (*women's all-conference only; effective September 2018*). Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own student-athletes. The All-Conference First Teams shall be divided into singles units consisting of six members and doubles units consisting of three tandems for both the men and women. The All-Conference Second Teams shall be comprised of one player from each singles flight outside of the first-team members, and three doubles tandems from each flight outside of the first-team members. *(Approved 10/12; Applies to women's all-conference only as of September 2018)*

A. Note: *The men's coaches voted to remove the 50-percent rule for all-conference consideration and opted to change the second team's configuration to mirror the first team, whereby singles players and doubles teams will be chosen without regard for position on the second team – September 2018.*

14.1.3 Player of the Year: Two plaques (one men's and one women's) are presented to the players voted Player of the Year. The Player of the Year awards shall be voted on by the head coaches and the balloting shall be conducted by the Conference office. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own student-athletes;

14.1.4 Freshman of the Year: Two plaques (one men's and one women's) are presented to the players voted Freshman of the Year. The Freshman of the Year awards shall be voted on by the head coaches and the balloting shall be conducted by the Conference office. The freshman receiving the highest number of votes on both men's and women's All-Freshman Team will be named as the Freshman of the Year. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own student-athletes;

- 14.1.5 Coach of the Year:** Two plaques (one men's and one women's) presented to the person(s) voted Coach of the Year. The Coach of the Year awards shall be voted on by the head coaches and the balloting shall be conducted by the Conference office;
- 14.1.6 Sportsmanship Award:** Two plaques (one men's and one women's) presented to the players voted the winners of the Sportsmanship Award. The Don Bunch/Buddy Hartsell Sportsmanship award will be presented in Men's Tennis. The Sportsmanship Awards shall be voted on by the head coaches and the balloting shall be conducted by the Conference office. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own student-athletes;
- 14.1.7 Players of the Week:** Sixteen certificates (eight men's and eight women's) presented to student-athletes named Player of the Week during the regular season. The Player of the Week shall be selected by the Conference office;
- 14.1.8 Players of the Month:** A Player of the Month award shall be selected for men and women at the end of each month during the season. The Players of the Month shall be selected by the Conference office;
- 14.1.9 All-Freshman Team:** An All-Freshman Team shall be named consisting of six freshmen, true freshmen, redshirt or otherwise. The coaches will vote to select a 6-member team. The freshman receiving the highest number of votes will be named as the Freshman of the Year. Balloting will be done as it is for All-Conference voting. *(Approved 10/08)*

15.0 Two-Year Moratorium of Approved Sport Regulations: Sport regulations approved by the membership must be implemented for two full seasons before they may be considered for amendment, except in instances where changes are made to the regulation on a national level (i.e. an NCAA rule or a national governing body policy). Coaches' recommendations that are not approved by the membership are subject to the moratorium and may not be reconsidered by the membership for two years. A 75% vote of the athletic directors may overrule the two-year moratorium on a case-by-case basis. *(Approved and Effective 6/10)*

Conference Tournament Regulations

1.0 Tournament Format

- 1.1** At the conclusion of the regular season, single-elimination Conference tournaments shall be conducted to determine the Southern Conference Tournament champions and the recipients of the league's automatic bids to participate in the NCAA Men's and Women's Tennis Championships. All teams that are eligible to compete will participate in the Conference tournaments. The tournaments will be conducted over four days. If a Conference tournament is not completed due to inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances, the respective NCAA Tournament automatic bid will be presented to the highest remaining seed in the tournament. If the Conference tournament is not able to be played at all, the regular-season champion shall receive the respective NCAA Tournament automatic bid.
- 1.2** The Southern Conference Tennis tournament will be held Thursday through Saturday with Sunday held as a rain date in an effort to complete the tournament. The Tennis Committee will be charged with making decisions related to playing matches outdoors, changing venues, or moving indoors during the tournament. Every effort will be made to complete the tournament within the four-day window (Thursday-Sunday) *(Approved 10/19)*

2.0 Tournament Dates

- 2.1** The Southern Conference Tournaments will be conducted prior to the NCAA Tournaments on the dates recommended by the Southern Conference Athletics Directors Association. The 2020 men's and women's tennis championship tournaments will be held April 16-18 and hosted by the University of Tennessee Chattanooga at the Champions Club in Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 2.2 Future Tournament Dates:** The dates for future tournaments will be: April 22-24, 2021 (Birmingham, Ala.); April 21-23, 2022 (Chattanooga, Tenn.).

3.0 Tournament Location

- 3.1 Bid Process:** The location of the tournaments shall be determined by a bid process conducted by the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees. All bids shall be reviewed and voted on by the Senior Woman Administrators Association and Athletics Directors Association.

4.0 Tournament Schedule

- 4.1 Bracket and Match Times:** Tournament bracket and match times shall be set by the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Committees. Matches may not start before their announced times.

5.0 Tournament Administration

- 5.1 Men's and Women's Tennis Committee Involvement:** The Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Committees shall provide general oversight of the tournaments. The committees shall have the authority to discipline and/or fine any member institution that does not abide by Conference regulations.

- 5.2 Games Committee:** A Games Committee shall be appointed for the tournaments consisting of the Men's and Women's Tennis Committee members on site, the athletics director of the host institution or his or her designee, the Southern Conference championships administrator on site (who shall serve as chair of the committee), the tournament director, and the head referee. The Games Committee shall:

- A. Ensure that the tournament is conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Southern Conference as contained in the Southern Conference Tournament Manual and these sport regulations;
- B. Make decisions regarding situations that occur where resolution is not covered in the rules and regulations of the NCAA, ITA, USTA or the Southern Conference as stated in the Tournament Manual or these sport regulations;
- C. Inspect the playing facilities prior to the start of the event.

- 5.3 Tournament Director:** The host institution for the tournaments shall appoint a tournament director, who will work with the conference's Director of Championships to perform the following functions under the direction of the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees:

- A. Serve as supervisor of the tournaments;
- B. Plan and coordinate all activities of the tournaments in conjunction with the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Committees and local organizing committee(s);
- C. Provide relevant tournament information to all coaches, athletics directors, chief executive officers, faculty representatives, senior woman administrators, and other necessary personnel of competing institutions;
- D. Coordinate and supervise the activities of the officials;
- E. Oversee servicing the needs of the participants and spectators as prescribed in the tournament manual;
- F. Delegate duties and responsibilities to tournament personnel;
- G. Secure a certified trainer and other medical personnel for the tournaments.

- 5.4 Media Coordinator:** The tournament director shall appoint a tournament media coordinator, who shall perform the following duties:

- A. Coordinate and administer all media working areas and media hospitality areas;
- B. Process all media requests for working credentials;
- C. Make sure that results are made available to all media after each match;
- D. Write and distribute all releases as necessary prior to and during the tournaments;
- E. Be responsible for all-tournament balloting;
- F. Coordinate the installation of phone lines as necessary in media work areas;
- G. Fulfill the needs of Conference sports information directors not on site.

- 5.5 Medical Personnel:** All medical staff for the tournaments shall be appointed by the tournament director, who shall ensure that the following occurs:

- A. That a certified trainer is on site for all practices and present at all matches at each venue;
- B. That a general practitioner or orthopedic physician is on call for all matches;
- C. That there is planned and pre-arranged access to medical facilities and that an EMS unit is on call during all matches;

- D. That training facilities and training supplies are available for all tournament events;
- E. That information concerning medical and training accommodations is distributed to all head athletic trainers and head coaches prior to their arrival at the tournament site.

5.6 Officials: The Southern Conference Director of Championships, working in conjunction with the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees, shall contract all officials to work the tournaments and shall:

- A. Assign a pool of officials to work the tournaments. The pool of officials should include a head referee and a deputy referee (who shall serve at the discretion of the head referee). The head referee shall make all individual match assignments and shall provide for at least two roving officials for each match on the first three days and chair umpires for all matches on the fourth day. Coaches do not possess scratch power when it comes to the assigning of any official;
- B. Conduct pre-match and post-match meetings as necessary with officials;
- C. Make sure that all officials are USTA/ITA certified;
- D. Make sure that all officials are dressed in appropriate attire for representation of the USTA.

5.7 Additional Tournament Personnel: The following additional personnel shall be appointed by the tournament director and/or tournament media coordinator:

- A. Tournament desk personnel;
- B. Public address announcer;
- C. In addition, Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Committee members (excluding the head coaches' representatives), may be assigned specific duties as necessary to ensure the orderly operation of the tournaments.

5.8 Promotions Director: The tournament director shall appoint a promotions director that ensures that a marketing and promotions plan is created to promote awareness to fans of member institutions and their local communities, as well as the local community that the tournament is being played in.

6.0 Tournament Manual

6.1 The Southern Conference staff liaison shall send a tournament manual to all Conference chief executive officers, faculty athletics representatives, athletics directors, senior woman administrators, head coaches and sports information directors at least one month prior to the tournament. The following information shall be contained in the manual:

- A. Facilities information;
- B. Telephone numbers and addresses of key tournament personnel;
- C. Local maps;
- D. Dates, times and location of the tournaments and related activities;
- E. Information on team and institutional credentials and parking passes;
- F. Tournament itineraries;
- G. Medical and training information;
- H. Media information;
- I. Information on hospitality and social functions;
- J. Names and responsibilities of Local Organizing Committee(s) personnel;
- K. Names and responsibilities of host institution personnel;
- L. A tournament emergency plan and emergency telephone numbers.

7.0 Tournament Procedures

7.1 Seeding: The seeds for the tournaments shall be determined based on each team's regular-season conference finish. In the event of a tie for a particular seed, the seed will be determined as follows:

- A. If one team has defeated the other team, that team shall be awarded a higher-seeded position;
- B. If the tied teams tied or did not play, the higher position will be awarded to the team that has the best won-loss record against the highest-seeded team not involved in the tie;
- C. If each team has the same record against the highest-seeded team not involved in the tie, then the won-loss records against the next highest-seeded team not involved in the tie would be considered and so on down the line until the tie is broken;
- D. If the records are the same against all teams, then the seeded position would be determined by

looking at (1) best overall team score, (2) number of matches won and (3) least number of sets lost;

- E. If the records are the same against all teams, then the seeded position would be determined by a toss of a coin by the Commissioner;
- F. In the event of a three-way tie, the won-loss record of the tied teams against each other is first considered;
- G. If the teams are still tied, the team's records against the next highest-seeded team after the three-way tie is considered and so forth until the tie is broken;
- H. If the records are the same against all teams, then the seeded position would be determined by looking at (1) best overall team score, (2) number of matches won and (3) least number of sets lost;
- I. If there is still a tie, the seeded position of the teams will be determined by a draw conducted by the Commissioner;
- J. For multiple ties larger than a three-way tie, the same procedure will be applied as used to break a three-way tie;
- K. For all multiple ties, the tie is broken by first deciding the highest-seeded team involved in the tie before deciding other seeding positions.

7.2. Ticket Prices: Pricing for the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Tournaments shall be established by the host institution and approved by the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees. There shall be no admission charge to the 2020 conference tournament.

7.3 Match Balls: The Wilson Extra Duty U.S. Open tennis ball shall be used during all men's and women's tournament matches. The Conference office shall be responsible for ordering a minimum of 75 dozen new balls for use during the tournaments. It is required that three new balls be used for warm-ups and for the first set. A new can of balls will be used for the second set and in the event of split sets. It is required that four new balls be used for each doubles pro-set.

7.4 Playing Rules: The playing rules for the Southern Conference Tournaments shall conform to those rules adopted for NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis, as well as the ITA, USTA, and the Southern Conference as stated in the Southern Conference Tournament Manual and these sport regulations.

7.5 Uniforms: All competitors must wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition, warm-up and during the post-tournament awards ceremony. All competitors are expected to wear the same team uniform at the start of the match. (*Approved 10/08*) In accordance with NCAA rules, the institution's official uniform (including warm-ups) and all other items of apparel (socks, head bands, t-shirts, wrist bands, towels, etc.) should bear only a single manufacturer's or distributors' normal label or trademark. The label or trademark may not exceed 2 1/4 inches square in size. Equipment (i.e., racquets, shoes) may bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public. Failure to comply with this regulation may cause disqualification or may jeopardize a student-athlete's eligibility.

7.6 Student-Athlete Eligibility: Each institution is responsible for submitting a list of competing student-athletes to the Conference compliance administrator no later than three (4) days prior to the start of the tournament. The Conference office will verify the eligibility of these student-athletes and will notify an institution if a problem arises with any of its student-athletes. Student-athletes not deemed eligible to compete may not be in uniform during the Conference tournaments.

7.7 Head Coaches Teleconference: A Southern Conference head coaches teleconference will be conducted prior to the start of the tournament. The Director of Championships will conduct the teleconference and review information pertinent to the tournaments. The head coach of each institution is required to participate on the conference call. Head coaches who do not participate are subject to disciplinary action as imposed by the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees and enforced by the Commissioner.

7.8 Pre-Match Format: The following items address the issue of pre-match format:

- A. Matches shall not begin prior to their announced start times;

- B. Teams involved in the first matches of the day shall have access to courts a minimum of 45 minutes prior to their scheduled start time for warm-ups;
- C. Teams involved in later matches during the day may warm-up on secondary courts prior to their scheduled match time. If secondary warm-up courts are not available, teams will be allotted 45 minutes of warm-up time on the main courts regardless of when courts become available after the preceding match;
- D. If secondary courts are available for warm-up, teams involved in later matches will be allotted 10 minutes of warm-up on the main courts.

7.8.1 Player Introductions: Pre-match player introductions for the tournaments shall be as follows:

- A. Lineups shall be introduced via a public address system whenever possible;
- B. For matches that cannot be introduced via a public address system due to other matches in progress, the head coaches will introduce their lineups to the crowd.

7.9 Lineups and Substitutions: All ITA policies regarding team lineups and substitutions in effect during the regular season shall also be in effect during the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Tournaments. The following additional policies shall govern tournament lineups and substitutions:

- A. All lineups for the tournaments shall be submitted to the Conference office by noon on the Monday prior to the start of competition. The Conference office will distribute all lineups to the head coaches on Monday afternoon. Any protests to submitted lineups will be due by Tuesday at noon and challenged coaches will be notified by 5:00 pm on Tuesday. A conference call will be held on Wednesday with the challenged coaches and the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees to resolve the protest;
- B. The protest(s) will be addressed by a committee consisting of appropriate conference staff, the members of the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees and two ex-officio committee members that will include two additional coaches who will not vote but act as an additional information resource. A coach or administrator whose institution is involved in the protest must excuse him or herself from the call. Before the beginning of the season a rotation list of ex-officio committee members will be established by the Conference office so that all coaches are aware of the potential to serve on a protest call. (*Approved 10/08*);
- C. Once a lineup is approved for the tournament, the only way it can be changed is due to injury or illness. In that event, everyone should be moved up one spot. Also, a seventh or eighth player may come into a sixth position at any time;
- D. A player will be allowed to come back into the tournament after sitting out a match as long as they re-enter at their previous position;
- E. In doubles competition, any replacement must be a straight line replacement. The three doubles teams must remain in order of strength as determined by their respective competition records. A No. 3 doubles player may come out and another player entered in his or her spot, as long as the teams remain in rank order.

7.10 Court Assignments and Score Reporting: The tournament desk shall control the assigning of all courts and the recording of all scores. After a match is completed, players must return their balls and report their scores to the tournament desk immediately. Coaches must check in at the tournament desk 30 minutes before their scheduled match time to submit their lineups and receive court assignments.

7.11 Changeovers: All changeovers between games and sets shall be 90 seconds in length. The time shall be kept by an official. Play shall be continuous between the second and third sets should the second set end on a changeover. If the second set does not end on a changeover, play may be halted briefly for the players to obtain a new can of tennis balls. In the event of injury on a changeover, USTA rules will apply.

7.12 Defaults: Any player not ready to play within 15 minutes after their scheduled match time may be defaulted.

7.13 Media Policies: All coaches and student-athletes shall be available for interviews with the media following each match after a 10-minute cooling-off period has been observed.

7.13.1 Cooling-off Period: The cooling-off period shall begin at the conclusion of a particular match when all coaches and players have left the court area. The cooling-off period will not be extended to allow coaches or players to do interviews with a broadcasting television network. In the event that these interviews take place, the cooling-off period will begin when the majority of a team's players and coaches have left the court area.

8.0 Tournament Awards

8.1 Awards Ceremony: Immediately following the conclusion of the championship matches, a tournament awards ceremony shall be held on the main courts. The head coach and student-athletes of the winning teams shall remain for the awards ceremony. The head coach and student-athletes of the losing teams shall have the option of immediately exiting following the match or remaining for the awards ceremony. The following awards shall be provided by the Conference office and distributed at the awards ceremony:

8.1.1 Championship Trophy: Two trophies (one men's and one women's) presented to the head coach and captains of the winning teams;

8.1.2 Runner-up Trophy: Two trophies (one men's and one women's) presented to the head coach and captains of the runner-up teams;

8.1.4 Most Outstanding Player: Two plaques (one men's and one women's) presented to the players selected as the Most Outstanding Players of the tournaments. The Most Outstanding Players shall be selected by the Games Committee;

8.1.5 NCAA Automatic Bid: Two certificates (one men's and one women's) presented to the athletics director and/or senior woman administrator of the winning institutions, signifying their institution's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

8.2 Other Awards: Other awards presented in conjunction with the Southern Conference Tournament are as follows:

8.2.1 Individual Championship Team Plaques: Twenty individual plaques (ten men's and ten women's) will be presented to the head coach(s) of the championship teams for presentation to the student-athletes of the championship teams. These plaques will be presented at the head coach's discretion.

8.2.2 Southern Conference Pinnacle Award: The Conference annually recognizes the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA from the team winning the Conference post-season tournament or meet in each sport. The criteria for the Pinnacle Award are as follows: the student-athlete must be an active member on the team roster, present at the championship and eligible to compete; the student-athlete is permitted to win only once per year, even if the student competes in more than one sport; the student-athlete must have a 3.0 GPA or better; the student-athlete should be at least a sophomore in academic standing (minimum two completed semesters at the Conference institution). For tiebreaking purposes, the following considerations shall be used (in order): 1) current cumulative GPA (calculated to hundredths, e.g. 3.54) based on all semesters completed up to the point of the championship, including January terms; and 2) percentage of credit hours the student-athlete has completed toward their major. *(Approved 6/16)*

9.0 Institutional Passes

9.1 VIP Hospitality Passes: Each member institution shall receive VIP Hospitality passes for use during the Southern Conference Tournaments, provided that VIP functions are conducted. These passes shall be provided in a number as approved by the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees. The passes may be distributed at the discretion of each institution's athletics director or senior woman administrator.

9.2 VIP Parking Passes: Each member institution shall receive VIP Parking passes for use during the Southern Conference Tournaments. These passes shall be provided in a number as approved by the Men's and Women's Tennis Committees. The passes may be distributed at the discretion of each institution's athletics director or senior woman administrator.

9.3 Team Bus Parking Passes: If necessary, each competing team shall be awarded bus passes as needed for use during the Southern Conference Tournament. The bus passes shall be distributed by the Tournament Director and are non-transferable.