



2019-20 Women's Basketball

Regular-Season Regulations

1.0 Sponsorship

- 1.1 The following member institutions sponsor women's basketball as a varsity intercollegiate sport:

East Tennessee State University
Furman University
Mercer University
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Samford University
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Western Carolina University
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 other members of the Conference twice during the regular season (once at home and once on the road). The Southern Conference office shall produce a league master schedule prior to the start of each season. Conference games shall be played primarily on Thursday/Saturday. No changes shall be made to the conference master schedule without approval from the conference office. Changes are normally allowed only to accommodate institutional academic restrictions, to facilitate significant non-conference scheduling opportunities or due to pre-existing facility conflicts. Game start times and locations shall be the prerogative of the home institution. *(Updated 8/13)*

2.1.2 Non-Division I Opponents: Each Southern Conference institution may play a maximum of four NCAA non-Division I opponents during the regular season.

2.1.3 Postponements: The only reason a game should be postponed is if travel conditions affect the safety of the involved teams and/or officials, national emergencies as declared by the Department of Homeland Security, and public health conditions that prevent the gathering of necessary game personnel. Inconvenient travel that alters normal pre-game routines or poor expected attendance is not an acceptable reason to postpone a game. If both teams and at least two officials can get to the site, the game should be played.

In those instances where conditions necessitate the postponement of a game, the following procedures should be followed: (a) the decision to postpone a game shall be a mutual decision between the competing athletics directors and should be based on safety factors. The decision should be withheld as long as possible to try to play the game at its regularly scheduled time. Visiting teams are expected to make every effort to travel to the site in order to play the game; (b) any decision to postpone the game must include consultation with the conference office and a mutually agreed upon reschedule date and start time; (c) the conference coordinator of officials must be notified immediately of both the postponement and reschedule; (d) as long as two officials can reach the game site, the game will be played. Not having a full crew of three officials will not be a reason for postponing a game. Officials able to work the game do not have to be the ones originally assigned; (e) flexibility may be exercised for a reasonable delay in starting time for team arrival, officials, or game personnel delayed by weather; (f) it is understood that inclement weather may alter game operations and preparations and may result in a less desirable, but clearly playable situation. In this situation, the game should be played.

- 2.2 Championship Determination:** The Southern Conference champion shall be the team that finishes with the best won-loss percentage in Conference games 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. 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 shall be in effect for all Southern Conference games.
- 2.5 Official Basketball:** The “official” basketball of the Southern Conference shall be used during regular-season Southern Conference games, unless an institution has notified the Conference Office of an existing contract with a different ball company prior to the start of the season. All balls used for play must meet NCAA specifications as outlined in the NCAA Rules. The referee shall judge the legality of the game ball. The referee shall select a game ball from the visiting team for use if the home team cannot provide a legal ball. The home team should be able to provide an air pump and pressure measuring device for the referee to utilize if needed.
- 2.6 Official Scorer:** The home team shall provide an official scorer for all Southern Conference games. The visiting team may provide a scorer for the purpose of improving the accuracy of data collection during a game. The home team scorer shall always be designated the official book.
- 2.6 Game Operations Personnel:** The host institution shall provide the following game operations personnel: (a) timer, (b) shot clock operator, (c) scoreboard operator, (d) official scorer; (e) timeout coordinator, (f) public address announcer, (g) video replay technician; (h) ball persons (a minimum of one ball person and a maximum of three ball persons on each end of the court each of whom should be 10 years of age or older).
- 2.6.1 Official Scorer:** The home team shall provide an official scorer for all Southern Conference games. The visiting team may provide a scorer for the purpose of improving the accuracy of data collection during a game. The home team scorer shall always be designated the official book. It is important for the official scorer to make sure that the official scorebook remains at the scorer’s table throughout the game, including during halftime. A standard collegiate scorebook/score sheet is required to be used for all NCAA basketball games. The official scorer should wear a black and white striped garment and should be the only person allowed to do so at the scorer’s table. The official scorer should be seated next to the timer.
- 2.7 NCAA Box Score:** The home team shall be responsible for recording NCAA statistical information for both teams and compiling an official NCAA box score. The home institution must send a completed final NCAA box score via e-mail to the Southern Conference office on the same day that a Southern Conference game is completed. The visiting head coach should receive a copy of the official NCAA box score at halftime and after each Conference game.
- 2.8 Scouting Information:** Southern Conference teams are prohibited from sharing scouting information on other Southern Conference teams with non-conference schools. Game videos of conference members from previous years not uploaded to the Synergy system shall not be sent to non-conference schools. Dissemination of video of intra-conference games during the current season is permitted, as every game uploaded to the Synergy system is available to any Synergy customer.
- 2.9 Film Exchange: Film Exchange:** Southern Conference institutions shall participate in an “open” film exchange with all other conference members during the regular season. All games shall be exchanged via the conference’s internet video exchange system (Synergy Sports Technology). Game files must be uploaded in a DVD-R format. When games are filmed, the entire game should be filmed, including dead ball situations. All videos will have audio and should run continuously through dead ball situations. Videos can be stopped during timeouts but must be restarted after the first horn sounds. The scoreboard should be shown at all timeouts and prior to all first free throw attempts. The video uploaded to the exchange system should be done from a high, center perspective, with all 10 players in view. All game action should be uploaded, including foul shots and out of bounds plays.

- 2.9.1 Uploading Deadlines:** For conference and non-conference home games game files should be uploaded by the home team within four hours of the completion of the game. For non-conference games played on the road, game video must be uploaded within 24 hours after returning to campus. *(Approved and Effective 09/09; Revised 7/14).*
- 2.9.2 On-Site DVDs:** After conference games, the home team shall provide the visiting team with a DVD copy of the game video prior to the visiting team leaving the site. If there is a problem with the copy, or the home team cannot duplicate DVDs, then the visiting team will be provided with the original and shall copy it and return the original to the home team. *(Approved and Effective 07/09).*
- 2.10 Video Replay:** During all games, the host institution shall utilize the XOS instant replay system and shall provide a television monitor for replay use by the replay technician and game officials. The XOS system shall utilize replays from mounted cameras and additional camera feeds as available. For televised games, a headset with direct connection to the producer shall be located at that position. For non-televised games, the home team should provide the additional feeds from “in-house” video systems and a headset connection to production personnel if available. For games with both television and in-house capabilities, the television feed should have priority over the in-house feed in regards to the XOS instant replay system. Replay equipment must be located on a designated courtside table within approximately three feet of the playing court. It is preferred that the system be located at the scorer’s table as close to half court as possible. It is also preferred to locate the timeout coordinator for any television game next to the replay technician. The system should be powered up and fully tested at least 45 minutes prior to the first game of the day.
- 2.11 Uniforms:** For all Conference games, the home team must wear light-colored uniforms and the visiting team must wear contrasting dark uniforms. This rule may be altered by mutual consent of the competing institutions. It is required that a Southern Conference primary or secondary logo be placed (silk screened or embroidered) on each team’s uniform as permissible by NCAA Rules. The preferred location is high on the left side or high on the right side on the game jersey. Allowable areas for placement are (a) the apex of the neck line on the front jersey; (b) between the apex of the neck line and the shoulder seam on the left side of the front jersey; (c) between the apex of the neck line and the shoulder seam on the right side of the front jersey; (d) on the game shorts (preferably) on the left leg or right leg, just above the hem, facing front). *(Revised 4/12).* An institutional logo can appear in the same places. The same logo cannot appear more than once on the game jersey. When an institution’s logo appears on the front, the conference logo must appear on the back, and vice versa. One games jerseys and shorts, the conference logo shall not be of a size that can’t fit into a four-sided geometrical figure – i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram – that does not exceed 2 ¼ inches.
- 2.12 Complimentary Tickets:** The home team shall provide the visiting team with 50 complimentary tickets for each Conference game. In accordance with Southern Conference Sportsmanship Code Regulations, a buffer section of visiting team seats or empty space must be provided in the area immediately behind the visiting team bench as it may be appropriate for each particular venue. The 50 complimentary tickets for the visiting team must be located within the buffer zone area. *(Revised 5/13)*
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 Electronic Media Timeouts:** In all Conference games involving a commercial radio or television broadcast, NCAA electronic media timeout policies shall be utilized.
- 2.15 Pre-Game Format:** The host institution shall provide the visiting head coach with a pre-game itinerary and/or time line upon the visiting team’s arrival on site. The pre-game itinerary should include warm-up times, introductions, national anthem and other information. It is recommended that the home game management director visit briefly with the game officials and the visiting head coach prior to the game to answer any questions and to inform them of his or her availability during the game. The game management director should review the pre-game itinerary and/or time line with the game officials and the visiting head coach.

2.16 Practices and Shootarounds: The court area shall be available at least one hour (with the exception of doubleheaders where 30 minutes shall be required) prior to a game to allow for warm-ups. Warm-ups may be conducted prior to one hour if the court is available. The court must be made available to both teams for the same duration of time. The home institution shall provide at least six "official" Conference basketballs (or other brand of game ball if an institution is using a different ball during the season) to both teams for use during warm-ups. Ball persons should be reminded to extend the same courtesies to the visiting team as they do for the home team during warm-ups. Court lighting at shootarounds must be the same as will be used in the game. Host institutions should strive to reduce as much traffic through the arena during a visiting team's shootaround as possible. It is not permissible for visiting teams to unplug or manipulate any video equipment located in the home team venue (*Approved and Effective 5/19*).

2.18 Regular-Season Use of Conference Tournament Venue: Schools shall be limited to one practice or shootaround at the venue of the Conference tournament for each game it is scheduled to play at that site during the regular season. No practices or shootarounds shall take place at the Conference tournament venue that is not connected to a scheduled contest. (NOTE: This regulation would not apply if the tournament venue is the home court of a conference institution).

3.0 Women's Basketball Committee

3.1 The Southern Conference Women's Basketball Committee shall consist of at least one athletics director, one senior woman administrator, one faculty athletics representative and one head coach. The sport committee shall perform the following duties:

3.1.1 Review the sport regulations for women's basketball;

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 women's basketball in the Southern Conference;

3.1.4 Conduct surveys, etc;

3.1.5 Administer, in general, the sport of women's basketball in the Southern Conference.

4.0 Head Coaches Meetings

4.1 Southern Conference head coaches shall meet once a year (either in-person or via conference call) to address all matters relating to the sport of women's basketball and to make recommendations to the Southern Conference Women's Basketball Committee, Senior Woman Administrators Association and/or the Athletics Directors Association.

5.0 Officiating

5.1 Coordinator of Officials: The Southern Conference Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officials, under the direction of the Southern Conference Commissioner and with the guidance of the Southern Conference Men's and Women's Officials Committee, shall establish a pool of officials for all Southern Conference games and assign all officials.

5.2 Evaluation Procedure: An evaluation procedure shall be used to ensure the quality of officials. The evaluation procedure shall include head coaches' evaluations, evaluations by the coordinator of officials, and evaluations by appointed and qualified neutral observers. Coaches and observers shall review each official's performance through a standard process. Coaches may review each official's performance through an evaluation portal located on the OfficialHub.net web site. Coaches' online evaluations should be completed on the first working day following a Southern Conference game.

5.3 Officiating Fees: At the discretion of the Coordinator of Officials and the Commissioner, officials will be paid a flat fee of either \$1,030, \$772 or \$645 per game for all regular-season games during the 2019-20 season. Officials shall be paid a flat fee of \$300 for working exhibition games and \$100 for closed scrimmages.

6.0 Game Management

6.1 The home athletics director (or his or her designee) shall serve as the game management director for all Southern Conference games. The home athletics director or game management designee also has the direct responsibility for crowd control as outlined in the Southern Conference Sportsmanship Code Regulations. The host institution is responsible for ensuring that the game clock, shot clocks, team possession arrow, public address systems, scoreboards and instant replay system and replay monitors are in working order prior to each Southern Conference game.

6.1.1 Game Management Provisions: The following provisions shall be provided to the visiting team from the home team:

- A. Sideline: Chairs in a quantity to accommodate the visiting team's coaches, managers, trainers and student-athletes (minus its starting five); one 10-gallon cooler of water, one three-gallon cooler of ice with bags, one biohazard box, one sleeve of cups, 12 bench towels.
- B. Dressing Room: One 3-gallon cooler of water, one sleeve of cups, shower (not hand) towels (as requested) and soap; non-permanent markers of various colors for the white board.
- C. Practice: One five-gallon cooler of water, 1 five-gallon cooler of ice with bags, one sleeve of cups, bench towels.

6.1.2 Visiting Team Dressing Rooms: The home institution is required to provide the visiting institution with a secure and private dressing room for all conference games. It is recommended that the visiting team dressing rooms adhere to the following specifications:

- A. Ample numbers of lockers, stools and/or chairs for the visiting team student-athletes;
- B. Shower facilities;
- C. Ample room in the facility to allow for athletic trainers to provide treatment;
- D. A large grease board;
- E. Reasonable proximity to the playing court;
- F. The dressing room should be maintained in a condition where there are no apparent leaks or other conditions that might be deemed unreasonable.

6.1.3 Security: A sufficient amount of security should be present pre-game, during the game, and post-game near the playing court to ensure the safety of the coaches and student-athletes of both the visiting and home teams. A plan should exist to get both teams and coaches off the court as soon as possible should the need arise. Ensuring the safety of the officials, teams and coaches is of the utmost importance during the game, and especially immediately after the game has ended. It is recommended that a security officer be stationed in the immediate area of both team benches during the game, and that the area around the team bench be restricted to student-athletes, coaches, managers, trainers and ball persons at all times. In addition, home team administrators should have security positioned in other key areas utilized by the competing teams. These areas include, but are not limited to, dressing rooms, runways to the court (pre-game, halftime, post-game), and media interview areas. Access to these areas must be restricted to credentialed and official personnel only.

Game management directors should make certain that game officials know where they are to enter and leave the playing court before and after the game. Uniformed security should be present with officials at all times to and from their dressing room area and the playing court. At halftime and after the game, uniformed security should meet the officials at the edge of the playing court and escort them to their dressing room area. Security should not enter the officials' actual dressing room. Care should be taken to ensure that the officials' post-game path does not leave them vulnerable to objects which may be thrown from the stands or other areas used by the public.

7.0 Public Address Announcer

7.1 Public Address Announcer: Only the designated public address announcer may use a microphone during a Southern Conference game. 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 beyond the pre-game introduction of the home team. The public address announcer shall be professional, courteous, non-controversial and refrain from "cheering".

7.2 PA System: The public address system may not orchestrate music, cheers, clapping and/or any other noise while the ball is in play, during a free throw, or during a dead ball situation that is not a timeout or replay monitor review.

7.3 Sportsmanship Announcement: The Southern Conference sportsmanship announcement should be read prior to each game and as necessary during the course of competition.

7.4 Video Boards/Matrix Boards: The use of video boards or matrix boards for any audible “cheerleading” or musical purpose is prohibited during live ball situations. A live ball is defined as any time while the game is in progress except for timeouts, intermission, and during a replay monitor review. Video board replays will be permitted for all plays during Southern Conference games. For plays which involve an official’s decision or a judgement call, only one replay should be shown and it must be shown in real time. All other plays may have multiple replays.

8.0 Cheerleaders, Pep Bands, Dance Teams, Mascots

8.1 Cheerleader Responsibilities: Cheerleaders should be encouraged to help maintain good sportsmanship among the students and others in attendance. The head cheerleader should be ready at all times to instigate the most popular cheer in case an unpleasant situation should occur.

8.2 Cheerleader Restrictions: Megaphones may never be turned toward the playing court or banged on the floor while a game is in progress. Amplified microphones are prohibited. Cheerleaders shall adhere to all rules outlined by the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA). It is recommended that the cheerleaders be located at the same end of the playing floor as their respective team bench. Under no circumstances shall cheerleaders chant profanities as a result of an official’s call or taunt the opposing team. Cheerleaders are not permitted to enter the playing floor during 30 second or 60 second timeouts.

8.3 Pep Band Restrictions: Bands are allowed to play only during pre-game, halftime, post-game and during timeouts. Bands are prohibited from playing during live ball situations. The shooting of a free throw is considered a live ball situation and thus the band should not play (this rule covers all NCAA regular season play). It is required that the home team pep band not be located behind or beside the visiting team’s bench (i.e., not in the same quadrant of the arena as the team bench). Under no circumstances should pep band members chant profanities as a result of an official’s call or taunt the opposing team. The pep band should also show good sportsmanship in the selection of music. In particular, music that may be considered to reflect negatively on game officials should be suppressed.

8.4 Dance Teams and Mascots: Regulations as they apply to cheerleaders also apply to dance teams and mascots.

8.5 Travel Restrictions: Cheerleading squads, pep bands and dance teams are allowed to travel to away Southern Conference games only on weekends. All visiting team cheerleaders, pep bands, dance teams and mascots (all in uniform) shall be admitted to conference games at no cost. Visiting cheerleaders, pep bands, dance teams and mascots must notify the host institution at to their intended presence at a particular game at least two weeks in advance. Performances by visiting cheerleaders, pep bands, dance teams and mascots shall be the determination of the host institution. All Southern Conference institutions shall attempt to extend the same courtesies to the visiting institutions’ representatives as it does to the host institution.

9.0 Conduct

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

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

9.3 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.

- 9.3.1 **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 incites an opponent to retaliate by acting in a similar manner shall be described as unsportsmanlike behavior.
- 9.3.2 **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.
- 9.3.3 **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.
- 9.3.4 **Suspension.** A penalty that denies the involved participant from being in the vicinity of the contest beginning 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.
- 9.3.5 **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.
- 9.3.6 **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.

10.0 Regular-Season Awards

- 10.1 The following awards shall be provided by the Conference and distributed to the appropriate institution following the conclusion of the Conference regular season:
 - 10.1.1 **Championship Trophy:** One trophy, presented to the team with the best won-loss percentage in Conference games (in case of a tie, each team shall receive a trophy);
 - 10.1.2 **All-Conference Team:** Fifteen plaques presented to the members of the All-Conference Team; Five All-Conference First Team, Five All-Conference Second Team and Five All-Defensive Team. The All-Conference Team shall be voted on by the head coaches and the Conference office shall conduct the balloting. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own players; Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own players;
 - 10.1.3 **Player of the Year:** One plaque presented to the Player of the Year. The Player of the Year award shall be voted on by the head coaches and the Conference office shall conduct the balloting. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own player;
 - 10.1.4 **Freshman of the Year:** One plaque presented to the Freshman of the Year. The Freshman of the Year award shall be voted on by the head coaches and the Conference office shall conduct the balloting. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own player;
 - 10.1.5 **Defensive Player of the Year:** One plaque presented to the player voted Defensive Player of the Year. The defensive player of the year award shall be voted on by the head coaches and the Conference office shall conduct the balloting. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own player;
 - 10.1.6 **Coach of the Year:** One plaque presented to the person voted Coach of the Year. The Coach of the Year award shall be voted on by the head coaches and the Conference office shall conduct the balloting. Coaches are not permitted to vote for themselves;
 - 10.1.7 **Players of the Week:** Twelve certificates presented to student-athletes named Player of the Week during the regular season. The Players of the Week shall be selected by the Conference office;
 - 10.1.8 **All-Freshman Team:** Five certificates presented to student-athletes named to the All-Freshman Team. The All-Freshman Team shall be voted on by the head coaches and balloting shall be conducted by the Conference office. Coaches are not allowed to vote for their own player;
 - 10.10.9 **Player of the Month:** A Player of the Month award will be selected at the end of every month during the season. The Player of the Month shall be selected by the Conference office;

10.1.10 Ann Lashley Inspiration Award: An award honoring a student-athlete or coach for outstanding courage or service shall be selected by the head coaches.

10.2 Sports Media Association Awards: In addition to the above mentioned awards, the Southern Conference Sports Media Association shall select a first team All-Conference team (five members), a second team All-Conference Team (five members), a Player of the Year, a Freshman of the Year, and a Coach of the Year upon the conclusion of the regular season. The Southern Conference Sports Media Association is responsible for producing and mailing plaques or certificates to commemorate these awards.

11.0 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, a single-elimination Conference tournament shall be conducted to determine the Southern Conference Tournament champion and the recipient of the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. All eligible teams will participate in the Conference tournament. The tournament will be conducted over three playing dates.

1.2 For most Conference sports, the championship shall conclude no later than the original dates of competition, regardless of any weather-related delays or postponements. This shall be true in baseball, men's & women's golf, men's & women's lacrosse, men's & women's soccer, volleyball, men's & women's indoor track, rifle, wrestling, and men's & women's cross country. The only sports which permit one additional day to conclude the championship because of weather-related issues are men's & women's tennis, softball, and men's & women's outdoor track. Men's & women's basketball would be determined by a decision made by the Commissioner's office and the basketball committee. *(Updated 6/17)*

2.0 Tournament Dates

2.1 The Southern Conference Tournament will be conducted prior to the NCAA Tournament on the dates recommended by the Southern Conference Athletics Directors Association. The traditional date of the Southern Conference Tournament is two weeks prior to the start of the NCAA Tournament.

3.0 Tournament Location

3.1 Bid Process: The location of the tournament shall be determined by a bid process conducted by the Women's Basketball Committee. All bids shall be reviewed and voted on by the Southern Conference Athletics Directors Association and approved by the Southern Conference Executive Committee.

3.1.1 2020 Tournament Location: The site of the 2020 Southern Conference Tournament shall be the Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville in Asheville, N.C.

3.1.2 Future Tournament Locations: The site of the 2020 and 2021 Southern Conference Tournaments shall be the Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville in Asheville, N.C.

3.1.3 Use of Tournament Venue: During the regular season, institutions shall be limited to one practice or shootaround at the Conference tournament venue for each game it is scheduled to play at the venue during the regular season. No practices or shootarounds should take place at the tournament venue that is not part of a scheduled contest. (NOTE: This regulation would not apply if the tournament venue is the home of a conference institution).

4.0 Tournament Schedule

4.1 Game Times: All tournament game times shall be set by the Southern Conference Women's Basketball Committee and approved by the Athletics Directors Association. Games may not start before announced times.

4.1.1 2020 Tournament Schedule: The 2020 Southern Conference Tournament shall be played March 5-8. The bracket and game times shall be set by the Women's Basketball Committee.

5.0 Tournament Administration

5.1 Women's Basketball Committee Involvement: The Southern Conference Women's Basketball Committee shall provide general oversight of the tournament.

5.1.1 Women's Basketball Committee Responsibilities: The Tournament Committee shall:

- A. Conduct the tournament in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Southern Conference as contained in the Southern Conference Tournament Manual and these sport regulations;
- B. Discipline and/or fine any member institution that does not abide by Conference regulations, and;
- C. Inspect the playing facilities prior to the start of the event.

5.2 Tournament Director: The Southern Conference Associate Commissioner shall serve as the director of the Women's Basketball Tournament, and shall perform the following duties under the direction of the Women's Basketball Committee:

- A. Serve as supervisor of the tournament;
- B. Plan and coordinate all activities of the tournament in conjunction with the Women's Basketball Committee and local organizing committee(s);
- C. Provide relevant tournament information to all coaches, athletics directors, senior woman administrators, chief executive officers, faculty athletics representatives 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 other Conference office staff members;
- G. Secure a certified trainer and other medical personnel for the tournament.

5.3 Media Coordinator: The tournament media coordinator shall be the Southern Conference Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations. The media coordinator 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. Coordinate the activities of the stats crew and make sure that statistics are made available to all media and teams at halftime and after each game;
- D. Write and distribute all releases as necessary prior to and during the tournament;
- E. Be responsible for all-tournament balloting;
- F. Provide seating charts for the media on each day of the tournament;
- G. Coordinate the installation of phone lines as necessary for radio, television and print media on press row and in other media working areas;
- H. Make sure that all teams and electronic media are provided with pre-game itineraries and/or timelines at least one hour prior to each game;
- I. Organize the Conference sports information directors' coordination of the tournament media operation.

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

- A. That a certified trainer is present for all practices and at all games;
- B. That a general practitioner or orthopedic physician is on site at all games;
- C. That EMS services are available during all games;
- D. That there is planned and pre-arranged access to medical facilities;
- E. That training facilities and training supplies are available for all tournament events;
- F. 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.

5.5 Coordinator of Officials: The Southern Conference Coordinator of Women's Basketball Officials shall perform the following duties relative to the Conference tournament:

- A. Assign a pool of officials to work the tournament and make individual game assignments. The pool of officials should include a minimum of six of the top officials as rated by the Conference head coaches and six additional officials assigned at the discretion of the Coordinator of Officials;
- B. Conduct pre-game and post-game meetings as necessary with officials;
- C. Conduct pre-game and post-game meetings as necessary with scorer's table personnel;
- D. Assign a standby official for all tournament games.

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

- A. Stats crew;
- B. Public address announcer;
- C. Official scorer;
- D. Clock, scoreboard and matrix board operators;
- E. Ball persons (at least two at each end of the floor);
- F. Dressing room attendants;
- G. Band/cheerleader coordinator;
- H. Television timeout coordinator;
- I. In addition, Women's Basketball Committee members (excluding the head coach representatives), senior woman administrators and sports information directors may be assigned specific duties as necessary to ensure the orderly operation of the event.

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

6.0 Tournament Manual

6.1 The tournament director 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 tournament and related activities;
- E. Information on team and institutional credentials and parking passes;
- F. A tournament itinerary;
- G. Medical and training information;
- H. Media information;
- I. Information on hospitality and social functions;
- J. Names and responsibilities of Local Organizing Committee 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 tournament 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 twice, that team shall be awarded the higher-seeded position;
- B. If each team has won one game against the other, 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 record 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 tie will be broken by comparing each team's Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) as published by RPIRatings.com after completion of the regular season;

- E. In the event of a three-way tie, the won-loss record of the tied teams against each other is first considered;
- F. If the teams are still tied, the team's record against the next highest-seeded team after the three-way tie is considered, and so forth until the tie is broken;
- G. If there is still a tie then the tie will be broken by comparing each team's Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) as published by RPIRatings.com after completion of the regular season;
- H. For multiple ties larger than a three-way tie, the same procedure will be applied as used to break a three-way tie; and
- I. 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 School Ticket Responsibilities: Each member institution shall be responsible for purchasing \$12,000 worth of book tickets or individual session tickets to the Southern Conference Tournament.

7.2.1 Ticket Prices: Ticket prices for the 2020 Southern Conference Tournament shall be set by the Men's and Women's Basketball Committees and approved by the Athletics Directors Association.

7.2.2 Ticket Allocation: Schools shall indicate to the Conference office prior to the season how they would like their \$12,000 worth of tickets allocated in terms of single session, general admission book or reserved book tickets. Seating plans and seating locations for the tournament will be determined by the conference office in consultation with the Athletics Directors Association and host entity. Under no circumstances should institutions buy or sell Tournament tickets with each other.

7.2.3 Complimentary Tickets: Schools shall receive no complimentary tickets for the Southern Conference Tournament.

7.2.4 Student Tickets: Student tickets shall be available for each school to sell prior to the Southern Conference Tournament on a consignment basis or schools may elect to sell student tickets out of their original ticket allotments.

7.3 Game and Practice Balls: The "official" basketball as adopted by the Southern Conference shall be used during all tournament games and practices. The Conference office shall provide at least one dozen balls for all practices and games.

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

7.5 Uniforms: For all tournament games, the higher-seeded team shall wear home or light-colored uniforms. The visiting team shall wear road or dark-colored uniforms. All competitors must wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition, warm-up and during the post-tournament awards ceremony. In accordance with NCAA rules, the institutions' 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., 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 (3) 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 tournament.

7.7 Pre-Tournament Teleconference: A teleconference will be held prior to the start of tournament competition. The Tournament Director will conduct the call and review information pertinent to the tournament. Personnel required to be on the call will be designated in advance by the conference office. Institutions that do not join the call are subject to disciplinary action as imposed by the Women's Basketball Committee and enforced by the Commissioner.

- 7.8 Pre-Game Format:** The following items address the issue of pre-game format:
- A. The court shall be available for both teams to utilize for warm-ups 30 minutes prior to each game;
 - B. For the first game of a session, teams may begin warm-ups prior to 30 minutes provided the court is available for use;
 - C. Depending on which game of a session is being conducted the official time line and pre-game clock countdown shall begin either 60 or 30 minutes prior to tip-off;
 - D. Both teams should be prepared for player introductions no later than three minutes prior to tip-off;
 - E. Teams shall warm up to begin a game at the basket opposite of their bench;
 - F. A national anthem shall be played prior to the first game of each session.
- 7.9 Squad Size Restrictions:** Travel squads to the tournament are limited to 15 student-athletes in uniform and 24 persons in the bench area. Student-athletes, coaches, trainers and managers will need a valid participant credential to enter the tournament venue. Each institution will receive participant passes (not to exceed 24 in number) as needed prior to the tournament.
- 7.10 Practice Policies:** It is the policy of the Southern Conference to make as many practice opportunities as possible available to competing teams during the Southern Conference Tournament.
- 7.10.1 Open Practices:** Each team will be granted a practice opportunity on the day prior to its first tournament game at the competition venue. These practices are not mandatory. These practices shall be designated as “open” practices. Coaches and student-athletes are required to make themselves available to the media immediately following their practice. Practices will be assigned by the Tournament Director based on each team’s seeding and bracket position.
- 7.10.2 Closed Practices:** All practices other than the practices conducted on the day prior to a team’s first game will be considered closed practices unless opened to the media or general public by that institution’s head coach or sports information director. If a practice is opened to any member of the media or general public, it shall then be declared open to all members of the media or general public. Closed practices will be assigned by seed.
- 7.11 Halftimes:** All halftimes will be 15 minutes in length. The halftime clock will begin when both teams have cleared the court area, or as instructed by the Conference television coordinator. At least five minutes will be provided for warm-ups for both teams prior to the start of the second half.
- 7.12 Media Policies:** All coaches and student-athletes shall be available for interviews with the media following each game after a mandatory 10-minute “cooling-off” period.
- 7.12.1 Dressing Rooms:** The dressing rooms of teams competing in the Southern Conference Tournament will be closed to all members of the media unless a member of the media states a desire to enter the dressing room prior to the conclusion of a game. This request must be made to the tournament media coordinator or the sports information director of the participating team.
- 7.12.2 Cooling-off Period:** The cooling-off period will begin when all coaches and players have entered the dressing room following a game. 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 entered the dressing room.
- 7.12.3 Interview Room Policies:** Each head coach shall bring at least two members of their team to the designated tournament interview area following the 10-minute cooling-off period. The winning head coach and two players shall report to the interview area first, followed by the losing head coach and two players. The interview session with the winning team shall not exceed 20 minutes in length. The interview session with the losing team shall not exceed 10 minutes in length.
- 7.13 Officials Responsibilities:** Officials and their duties are outlined in the NCAA Women’s Basketball Rules.
- 7.14 Bench Assignments:** The higher-seeded team shall be assigned the bench to the right hand side of the official scorer for all games.

8.0 Tournament Awards

8.1 Awards Ceremony: Immediately following the conclusion of the championship game, a tournament awards ceremony shall be held near midcourt. The head coach and student-athletes of the winning team shall remain on the floor for the awards ceremony. The head coach and student-athletes of the runner-up team shall have the option of immediately exiting the court following the game or remaining on their bench 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: One trophy presented to the head coach and captains of the winning team;

8.1.2 Runner-up Trophy: One trophy presented to the head coach and captains of the runner-up team;

8.1.3 All-Tournament Team: Ten plaques (five second team plaques and five first team plaques) presented to members of the All-Tournament Team. The All-Tournament Team shall be selected by the media immediately following the conclusion of the championship game;

8.1.4 Most Outstanding Player: One plaque presented to the player selected as the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament. The Most Outstanding Player shall be one of the ten members of the All-Tournament team and is selected by the media immediately following the conclusion of the championship game;

8.1.5 NCAA Tournament Automatic Bid: One certificate presented to the athletics director or senior woman administrator of the winning institution. The certificate shall signify the institution's earning of the Southern Conference'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: Fifteen individual plaques will be presented to the head coach of the championship team for presentation to the student-athletes of the championship team. 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 10 VIP Hospitality passes for use during the Southern Conference Tournament with the number to be agreed upon by the conference office and the membership. These passes shall be distributed at the discretion of the institution's athletics director.

9.2 VIP Parking Passes: Each member institution shall receive 10 VIP Parking passes for use during the Southern Conference Tournament with the number to be agreed upon by the conference office and the membership. These passes shall be distributed at the discretion of the institution's athletics director.

9.3 Team Bus Parking Passes: Each competing team shall be awarded one bus pass for use during the Southern Conference Tournament. The bus pass shall be distributed by the tournament director and is non-transferable.

9.4 Coaches' Parking Passes: The coaching staffs of the competing teams shall be awarded two individual parking passes for the Southern Conference Tournament to allow easy access to the tournament venue for game, special interview or scouting purposes. The passes shall be distributed by the tournament director and are non-transferable.

10.0 Pep Bands and Cheerleaders

10.1 Pep Bands: Each pep band shall be limited to a maximum of 30 members during the Southern Conference Tournament. Pep bands shall be issued parking passes for the tournament as needed. These passes shall be distributed by the tournament director and are non-transferable.

10.2 Cheerleaders: Each cheerleading squad shall be limited to a maximum of 13 members (including one uniformed mascot) during the Southern Conference Tournament. Cheerleading squads shall be issued parking passes for the tournament as needed. These passes shall be distributed by the tournament director and are non-transferable.