POLICIES & PROCEDURES

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Cross Country Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head cross country coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The cross country coaches committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to cross country including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be an elected position by the committee membership. The term shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of cross county is Phillip Laney of Blue Mountain.

3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. The Cross Country coaches will technically have two additional raters to rate the conference schools but if there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The term shall be for a period of two years.

Men’s Rater
Blake Hegstrom, William Carey

Women’s Rater
Andy Canegitta, Mobile

Male Oversight Committee
Blake Hegstrom, William Carey
Andy Canegitta, Mobile
Phillip Laney, Blue Mountain

Female Oversight Committee
Blake Hegstrom, William Carey
Andy Canegitta, Mobile
Phillip Laney, Blue Mountain

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

3.2. B. The rater committee will oversee the weekly conference rating via conference call and report the rating to the NAIA office.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site - Committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Championships. Final
recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. **Reporting** - The annual report of the cross country committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. **Quorum** - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, which is necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

**Article 5 — Conference Play**

5.1. **General Policies and Procedures**
5.1. A. The conference championship will be determined by NAIA Cross Country Scoring and will correspond with the distances associated with the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be limited to 10 entries at the conference championship meet.
5.1. B. No inter-conference regular season competition is required.
5.1. C. The host institution is responsible for distribution of information pertaining to the SSAC championship.
5.1. D. Official entry in the conference meet shall be in compliance with NAIA postseason entry procedures.

5.2. **Regular Season Format** - No regular season meets are required.

5.3. **Playing Rules** - All NAIA cross country rules, as outlined in the NAIA Cross Country Manual, and SSAC rules are applicable.

5.4. **Game Officials** - The host institution shall use a neutral timing company at all conference meets.

5.5. **Protest of Officials Decision**
5.5. A. Public comments about meet officials by coaches or institutional representatives are not allowed.
5.5. B. The oversight committee will rule over any protests and the decision of the oversight committee will be final. Protests must be filed within 10 minutes after the unofficial results are released.

**Article 6 — Conference Championships**

6.1 **Dates** – The SSAC Cross Country Championships are scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Oakville Indian Mounds Park in Oakville, Ala.

6.2. **Championship Format**
6.2. A. The championship site shall be determined by the committee membership at their annual meeting pending approval by the Board of Athletic Directors.
6.2. B. There shall be a 5K race for the women at 9 a.m. and an 8K race for the men at 9:40 a.m.
6.2. C. The conference championship will be determined by the scores of the top five finishers of each team. Each team’s sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth place finishers will be displaced for the purpose of determining team scores.
6.2. D. Ties in team competition shall be broken by comparing the finishing place of the sixth team member.

6.3. **Site** – Oakville Indian Mounds Park in Oakville, Ala.
6.4. **Coaches Meeting at the Conference Tournament** - A conference call of all head coaches will be held the Tuesday before the SSAC tournament to discuss the conference championship. If necessary, a meeting can be held on the morning of the conference championship for last minute details.

**Article 7 — Awards**

7.1. **Runner of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year**
7.1. A. The male/female winner of each meet of the conference championship shall be the Runner of the Year.
7.1. B. The top newcomer male/female finisher in the conference meet shall be the Newcomer of the Year.
7.1. C. The top freshman male/female finisher in the conference meet shall be the Freshman of the Year.
7.1. D. Coach of the Year is selected by a vote of the coaches at the end of the championship for men/women.
7.1. E. Plaques awarded.

7.2. **Regular Season**: There is no regular season champion.

7.3. **Team Champion**
7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC Cross Country Championship receives the automatic berth to the NAIA National Championship.
7.3. B. Trophies awarded.

7.4. **All-Conference Team/All-Freshman Team**
7.4. A. The top 15 male and female finishers will be named to the All-Conference Team.
7.4. B. Medals awarded.
7.4. C. The top 5 male and female freshman finishers will be named to that All-Freshman Team.
7.4. D. Certificates awarded.

7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC cross country runners who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous spring semester, are at least a sophomore, and complete the season of play shall be a member of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character Team
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded.

7.7. Runner of the Week - A Runner of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipient and submit the winner to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the cross country committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. The Board of Athletic Directors will act on all recommendations during the SSAC Annual Meetings. Amendments will be for the following year's season of competition.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference web site.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.

Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. Proper cross country attire shall be worn in accordance with the generally accepted cross country standards and NAIA regulations.

Article 13 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games

13.1. Postponement/Delay
13.1. A. A meet committee consisting of the host institution athletic director (or head coach in their absence) and the conference representative shall make the decision about postponing the SSAC Cross Country Championships due to inclement weather that endangers participants.
13.1.B. The event is scheduled for A.M. competition and therefore the event will be delayed until it can be conducted later that day. Each institution has been notified that they must be prepared to remain at
the event on that Saturday until the race is completed or the on-site meet committee determines that it cannot be run.

13.2. Championship Determination due to Cancellation
13.2. A. In the event of weather or other uncontrollable natural acts which do not permit the SSAC Cross Country Championships to be conducted, the conference team champion will be determined as follows:
13.2. B. The SSAC Rating Oversight Committee will declare the SSAC Team Champions based on the final conference ratings submitted by the SSAC conference raters.
13.2. C. This rating will be conducted regardless of weather for the good of the conference championship; however, in the event of cancellation each coach will be given the opportunity to provide feedback before the Oversight Committee makes a final decision.

Article 14 — Eligibility

14.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

Article 15 — Miscellaneous

15.1. The winner of the SSAC Cross Country Championship shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish at the SSAC Cross Country Championship.
15.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Cross Country National Championships shall be utilized. The policies for men's and women's cross country shall be the same but considered separate sports.

MEN’S SOCCER

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Men's Soccer Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head men’s soccer coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.
2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to men’s soccer including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.
2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers

3.1. Status and Term of Office
3.1. A. The committee chair shall be elected positions by the committee membership. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of men’s soccer is Barry Farrell of William Carey.
3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Saif Alsafeer of Dalton State. The current oversight committee is Saif Alsafeer of Dalton State, Elvar Gudjonsson of Middle Georgia and Frankie Ruiz of Brewton-Parker.
3.2. Duties
3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.
3.2. B. The secretary shall, in the absence of the chair, assume all duties of that position. The secretary shall record minutes of all meetings of the committee and provide retention of committee records.
Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the men’s soccer committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but five (5) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures
5.1. A. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institutions outside the conference.
5.1. B. Game fields must conform to dimensions and markings listed in the collegiate soccer rule book.
5.1. C. Should the game official find it necessary to stop a game in progress, the game may continue if conditions allow within a maximum time of one hour. If less than 70 minutes have been played and the match cannot continue, it will be rescheduled and played from the beginning with a 0-0 score. If 70 minutes or more have been played, the game will be considered official after the one hour time limit. This applies to conference games only.
5.1. D. All SSAC matches will be played. Teams that are unable to play will play at the next available playing date pending approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set by the athletic directors. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date. Sunday make-ups are encouraged for those teams that are allowed to play on Sunday.
5.1. E. The rankings shall not be frozen following regular-season play.

5.2. Regular Season Format - Each team will play all other conference members at least once during the regular season. If two teams schedule to play more than once, the actual game that will count in the conference standings will be the game that has been scheduled by the conference office. The commissioner and the conference scheduling committee will produce the master conference soccer schedules.
5.2. A. There shall be a 2:30 time difference between the start time of the women’s game and the start time of the men’s game during regular-season play. There is a minimum of 20 minutes of warmup on the game field for each men’s game.

5.3. Playing Rules - NCAA Soccer Rules as adopted by the NAIA Men’s Soccer Coaches Committee.

5.4. Game Officials
5.4. A. All SSAC matches will use a three-man officiating crew. If a scheduled official cannot make it to the match, a two-man crew will be used.
5.4. B. Game and tournament officials shall be appointed by Mark Herrington.

5.5. Protest of Officials Decision
5.5. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is strictly prohibited.
5.5. B. Any protest of an official’s misapplication of rules or laws must be submitted in writing to the SSAC commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy is mailed to the supervisor/booking agent.

Article 6 — Conference Championship

6.1. Dates – The first round matches are to be scheduled for November 8-9, 2019 at campus sites. The semifinals and championship are scheduled for November 14-16, 2019 at the Emory Folmar YMCA Soccer Complex in Montgomery, Alabama.

6.2. Format
6.2. A. Six teams qualify for the SSAC Men’s Soccer Championship and shall be seeded 1 through 6 according to regular-season finish. All quarterfinal matches will be played on Friday or Saturday, November 8-9, 2019 at the home field of the higher seeded team; #6 at #3 and #5 at #4, with the top two teams getting byes. There will be no reseeding of teams following the quarterfinal round. Semifinal and championship matches are not to begin before 1:00 p.m. local time.

6.2. B. Method of Breaking Ties for Tournament Seeding and final regular season champion - (1) head to head competition, (2) goal difference of up to three in conference matches, (3) goals scored up to three in conference matches, (4) goals against up to three in conference matches, (5) most recent MRPI. When more than two teams are tied, the top seeded team is determined using the above criteria. For the remaining tied teams the tie breaker criteria is re-utilized including the remaining teams.

6.3. Site - The winners of each of the first round matches will join the top two seeds at the conference championship neutral site in Montgomery, Alabama.

6.4. Coaches Meeting at the Conference Tournament - As needed to discuss pending issues at the discretion of the conference office.

6.5. A fourth official will be utilized at the SSAC Men’s Soccer Championship final site.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Offensive/Defensive Players of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Coach of the Year, Golden Boot & Golden Gloves
7.1. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches.
7.1. B. Plaques awarded.

7.2. Regular Season Champion
7.2. A. Champion is awarded a trophy. No co-champions will be awarded.

7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship
7.3. B. Trophy awarded to the tournament champion
7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and 11-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.
7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.

7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team
7.4. A. Selected by position at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference Team of 28 members shall be comprised of a First Team (14) and a Second Team (14). All-Freshman Team shall include 14 members.
7.4. B. Plaques awarded to All-Conference First Team and certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team and All-Freshman Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC men’s soccer players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous spring semester, are at least a sophomore, and complete the season of play shall be a member of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character Team
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded.

7.7. Player of the Week – An Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week in each category. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipients and submit the winners to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the soccer committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. The Board of Athletic Directors will act
on all recommendations during the SSAC Annual Meetings. Amendments will be for the following year's season of play.

**Article 9 — Publicity**

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.

9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.

9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

**Article 10 — Protocol**

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.

10.2. All host institutions are responsible for providing the official game statistics (included printed stats at halftime and end of game) and the appropriate game personnel (ball runners – recommend two per side of appropriate age, etc.) for each contest.

10.3. The host institution shall be responsible for having designated locker room facilities for the visiting team. A representative from the host institution shall be on hand to meet the visiting team upon arrival at the game site to show them to their locker room.

**Article 11 — Practice Schedule**

11.1. In-season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

**Article 12 — Uniforms**

12.1. Home teams wear light colored uniforms and visiting teams wear dark colored uniforms unless otherwise agreed. Home teams are responsible for notifying the visiting team in advance if they are unable to wear the light colored uniform.

**Article 13 — Balls**

13.1. The home team shall supply officially sanctioned balls for conference play. The official game ball is currently the Select Super Brilliant NAIA Ball.

**Article 14 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Match**

14.1. The game officials in association with the two head coaches and the host institution's athletic director shall determine the impact of inclement weather on game operations. If the decision impacts visiting team travel please communicate as early and often as possible with the visiting team for travel cost considerations.

**Article 15 — Eligibility**

15.1. All rules and regulations of the SSAC and the NAIA shall apply to all participants.

**Article 16 — Miscellaneous**

16.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.

16.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship shall be utilized.
**Article 17 — Video Sharing**

17.1. It is a requirement for the home team to upload games as soon as possible to InStat. 1st offense = warning, 2nd offense = reprimand, 3rd offense = $100 fine

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**

**Article 1 — Title** - Southern States Athletic Conference Women's Soccer Committee

**Article 2 — Committee Structure**

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head women’s soccer coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to women’s soccer including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

**Article 3 — Officers**

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be an elected position by the committee membership. The term shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of women’s soccer is Brian Person of Mobile.

3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Danny Owens of William Carey. The current oversight committee is Misty Aird of Bethel, Will Austin of Martin Methodist and Brian Person of Mobile.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

**Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum**

4.1. Date and Site - Committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the women's soccer committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but five (5) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

**Article 5 — Conference Play**

5.1. General Policies and Procedures

5.1. A. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institution outside the conference.

5.1. B. Game fields must conform to dimensions and markings listed in the collegiate soccer rule book.

5.1. C. Should the game official find it necessary to stop a game in progress, the game may continue if conditions allow within a maximum time of one hour. If less than 70 minutes have been played and the match cannot continue, it will be rescheduled and played from the beginning with a 0-0 score. If
70 minutes or more have been played, the game will be considered official after the one hour time limit. This applies to conference games only.

5.1. D. All SSAC matches will be played. Teams which are unable to play will play at the next available playing date pending approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set by the athletic directors. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date. Sunday make-ups are encouraged for those teams that are allowed to play on Sunday.

5.1. E. In conference games, the game clock will be set to hit 0 at game time. When the clock hits 10 minutes, teams come off the field.

5.2. Regular Season Format - Each team will play all other conference members at least once during the regular season. If two teams schedule to play more than once, the actual game which will count in the conference standings will be the game that has been scheduled by the conference office. The commissioner and the conference scheduling committee will produce the master conference soccer schedule.

5.3. Playing Rules - NCAA Soccer Rules as adopted by the NAIA Women’s Soccer Coaches Committee.

5.4. Game Officials
5.4. A. All SSAC matches will use a three-man officiating crew. If a scheduled official cannot make it to the match, a two-man crew will be used.
5.4. B. Game and tournament officials shall be assigned by Mark Herrington.

5.5. Protest of Officials Decision
5.5. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is prohibited.
5.5. B. Protests of an official’s decision will be submitted in writing to the SSAC commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy is mailed to the supervisor/booking agent.

Article 6 — Conference Championship

6.1. Dates – The first round matches are to be scheduled for November 8-9, 2019 at campus sites. The semifinals and championship are scheduled for November 14-16, 2019 at the Emory Folmar YMCA Soccer Complex in Montgomery, Alabama.

6.2. Format
6.2. A. Six teams qualify for the SSAC Men’s Soccer Championship and shall be seeded 1 through 6 according to regular-season finish. All quarterfinal matches will be played on Friday or Saturday, November 8-9, 2019 at the home field of the higher seeded team; #6 at #3 and #5 at #4, with the top two teams getting byes. There will be no reseeding of teams following the quarterfinal round. Semifinal and championship matches are not to begin before 1:00 p.m. local time.
6.2. B. Method of Breaking Ties for Tournament Seeding and final regular season champion - (1) head to head competition, (2) goal difference of up to three in conference matches, (3) goals scored up to three in conference matches, (4) goals against up to three in conference matches, (5) most recent MRPI. When more than two teams are tied, the top seeded team is determined using the above criteria. For the remaining tied teams the tie breaker criteria is re-utilized including the remaining teams.

6.3. Site - The winners of each of the first round matches will join the top two seeds at the conference championship neutral site in Montgomery, Alabama.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Offensive/Defensive Players of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Coach of the Year, Golden Boot & Golden Gloves
7.1. A. Selected at the end of the season by a vote of all coaches.
7.1. B. Plaques awarded.

7.2. Regular Season Champion
7.2. A. Champion trophy awarded. If there is a tie, tie-breaking procedure will be used to determine a regular season champion.

7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship. If Mobile, which receives an automatic berth to the NAIA National Championship as the
host school, does not win the conference tournament then the SSAC tournament champion would receive an automatic berth and Mobile would receive its berth as the host school.

7.3. B. Champion trophy awarded.
7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and 11-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.
7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.

7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team
7.4. A. Selected by position at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference Team of 28 members shall be comprised of a First Team (14) and a Second Team (14). All-Freshman Team shall include 14 members.
7.4. B. Plaques awarded to All-Conference First Team and certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team and All-Freshman Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC women’s soccer players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous spring semester, are at least a sophomore, and complete the season of play shall be a member of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character Team
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded.

7.7. Player of the Week – An Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week in each category. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipients and submit the winners to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1 All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the soccer committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. The Board of Athletic Directors will act on all recommendations during the SSAC Annual Meetings. Amendments will be for the following year's season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.
10.2. All host institutions are responsible for providing the official game statistics and the appropriate game personnel (ball runners – recommend two per side of appropriate age, etc.) for each contest.
10.3. The host institution shall be responsible for having designated locker room facilities for the visiting team. A representative from the host institution shall be on hand to meet the visiting team upon arrival at the game site to show them to their locker room.

Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.
Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. Home teams wear light colored uniforms and visiting teams wear dark colored uniforms unless otherwise agreed. Home teams are responsible for notifying the visiting team in advance if they are unable to wear the light colored uniform. When a team is traveling for Thursday/Saturday games, on Saturday the home team wears dark and the away team wears light, unless otherwise agreed.

Article 13 — Balls

13.1. The home team shall supply officially sanctioned balls for conference play. The official game ball is currently the Select Brilliant Super NAIA Ball.

Article 14 — Inclement Weather

14.1. The game officials in association with the two head coaches and the host institution’s athletic director shall determine the impact of inclement weather on game operations. If the decision impacts visiting team travel please communicate as early and often as possible with the visiting team for travel cost considerations.

Article 15 — Eligibility

15.1. All rules and regulations of the SSAC and the NAIA shall apply to all participants.

Article 16 — Miscellaneous

16.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.

16.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship shall be utilized.

Article 17 — Video Sharing

17.1. It is a requirement for the home team to upload games as soon as possible to InStat. 1st offense = warning, 2nd offense = reprimand, 3rd offense = $100 fine

VOLLEYBALL

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Volleyball Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head volleyball coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to volleyball including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair and secretary shall be elected positions by the committee membership. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of volleyball is Kelsea Weldon of William Carey.
3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Tori Bartels of Faulkner. The current oversight committee is: Jesse Zabal of Loyola, Tori Bartels of Faulkner and Alison Williams of Martin Methodist.

3.2. Duties
3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.
3.2. B. The secretary shall, in the absence of the chair, assume all duties of that position. The secretary shall record minutes of all meetings of the committee and provide retention of committee records.
3.2. C. The NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will oversee the weekly conference rating via conference call and report the rating to the NAIA office.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site — The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.
4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the volleyball committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.
4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but five (5) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures
5.1. A. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institutions outside the conference. Distribution of videos containing SSAC matches to institutions outside of the conference is strictly prohibited. All conference teams will be required to submit game tape through Hudl for all conference matches/opponents.
5.1. B. All weekend matches (Friday & Saturday) must be uploaded by 1 p.m. the following business day.
5.1. C. All weekday matches (Monday-Thursday) must be uploaded by 24 hours after match start time.
5.1. D. Early season non-conference upload of film. Prior to conference play, Sept. 6, 2019 by 1 p.m.
5.1. E. Video footage must be HD quality, with a minimum of 720p resolution. The camera should be placed at the best possible viewing angle of the court.
5.1. F. Three (3) strike policy enforced by the conference volleyball chair
   Strike 1- email warning sent to coach, AD and Commissioner.
   Strike 2- written warning sent to coach, AD and Commissioner.
   Strike 3- monetary fine of $100 paid to the conference office.
5.1. G. In the case of a tie, the regular-season champions are considered co-champions. For determining tournament seeding & automatic qualification, if applicable, see the tie-breaker format in Section 6.2.B.
5.1. H. The regular season champion gets the 1st automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship and the tournament champion gets the 2nd automatic bid. If same team, tournament runner-up gets 2nd bid.
5.1. I. All standards and equipment must meet safety standards as suggested in the NCAA rule book.
5.1. J. The host institution shall provide an official scorer, libero tracking, scoreboard operator and in-game statistics.
5.1. K. Score table crew (score keeper, libero tracker and scoreboard operator) must be uniform in what they wear.
5.1. L. Home team will provide ice, water, and cups. Home team will provide practice balls. Home team must keep in-game stats, using the DakStats software system.
5.1. M. Pre-match protocol: Court must be available 60 minutes prior to match start time. The conference will follow NCAA pre-match protocol rules. It is ENCOURAGED that each team be allowed fifteen minutes of sole use of the court—home team receives the first 15 minutes and the visiting team receives the second 15 minutes. The total pre-match protocol time will be 90 minutes.
5.1. **N.** All SSAC matches will be played. Teams which are unable to play will play at the next available playing date pending the approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set by the athletic directors. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date. Sunday make-ups are encouraged for those teams that are allowed to play on Sunday.

5.1. **O.** Saturday matches cannot start before 1 p.m. CST

5.1. **P.** After each match if there are statistical discrepancies the SIDs are to report the issues to each other within 72 hours of the match.

**5.2. Regular Season Format**

5.2. **A.** The conference schedule will be a divisional schedule with 13 matches played.

5.2. **B.** Regular season play will be based on a 3 out of 5 set match.

**5.3. Playing Rules** - NCAA Volleyball Rules with the exception of the substitution rule; NAIA allows unlimited substitutions.

**5.4. Game Officials** – USAC rated officials shall be assigned by the coordinator of officials, David Carstenson.

**5.5. Protest of Officials Decision**

5.5. **A.** Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is prohibited.

5.5. **B.** Protests of an official’s decision will be submitted in writing to the SSAC commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy is mailed to the supervisor/booking agent.

**Article 6 — Conference Championship**

**6.1. Dates** - The SSAC Volleyball Championship shall be a eight-team tournament held on November 14-16, 2019 at the Cramton Bowl Multiplex in Montgomery, Alabama.

**6.2. Format**

6.2. **A.** Pool Play and Bracket Play Format used; best three (3) out of five (5) sets. Seeding based on conference winning percentages. Two four-team pools. Pool A: Seed 1, 4, 5, 8; Pool B: Seed 2, 3, 6, 7

6.2. **B.** Method of determining seeds in case of tie: (1) overall conference match record, (2) head to head competition, (3) percentage of sets won of those played among tied teams (total games won/total sets played), (4) percentage of points won in matches played among tied teams (total points won/total points played), (5) percentage of total sets won, (6) percentage of total points won, and (7) flip of the coin by the conference commissioner. When more than two teams are tied, the top seeded team is determined using the above criteria. For the remaining tied teams the tiebreaker criteria is re-utilized including the remaining teams.

6.2. **C.** Times to be set by Coaches Committee and approved by athletic directors.

**Pool A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seeds: 1, 4, 5, 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
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</table>

**Pool B**

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day 2 | Nov. 15**

| 10:00 | No. 5 v. No. 4 |
| 12:30 | No. 1 v. No. 8 |
| 3:00 | No. 5 v. No. 8 |
| 5:00 | No. 1 v. No. 4 |

**Day 3 | Nov. 16**

| 10:00 | Pool A 1 v. Pool B 2 |
| 2:00 | Championship |

**Day 2 | Nov. 15**

| 10:00 | No. 6 v. No. 3 |
| 12:30 | No. 7 v. No. 2 |
| 3:00 | No. 7 v. No. 6 |
| 5:00 | No. 3 v. No. 2 |

**Day 3 | Nov. 16**

| 10:00 | Pool B 1 v. Pool A 2 |

6.2. **D.** All matches will not start earlier that the original scheduled times.
6.2. E. Each team will be guaranteed the NCAA warm-up countdown on the match court if time allows. In a tournament situation, or (if both coaches agree) when a match follows another scheduled activity in the facility, the shared court time period of 41 minutes may be reduced to a minimum of 10 minutes.

6.3. Site
6.3. A. The tournament shall be hosted at a neutral site selected by the conference commissioner. The site should have facilities with air conditioning, fan accommodations, locker rooms and the ability to run a two-court system.
6.3. B. The conference shall provide a banquet following the first day of play on Thursday. The attending institutions will be required to attend the banquet.
6.3. C. The conference chair institution and conference office will provide practice and game balls for all tournament matches.

6.4. Coaches Meeting at the Conference Tournament - A conference call of all head coaches represented will be held the Tuesday before the SSAC tournament to discuss the tournament.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Setter of the Year, Libero of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year
7.1. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches.
7.1. B. Plaques awarded.

7.2. Regular Season Champion
7.2. A. Team that wins the most regular season conference matches is the regular-season champion and receives the 1st automatic berth to the NAIA Volleyball National Championship.
7.2. B. In the case of a tie, the regular season champions are considered co-champions. For determining tournament seeding and automatic qualifiers, if applicable, see the tiebreaker formula in 6.2.B.
7.2. C. Champion trophy is awarded.

7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
7.3. A. Team that wins the conference tournament is the tournament champion and receives the 2nd automatic berth to the NAIA Volleyball National Championship.
7.3. B. Champion trophy is awarded.
7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and seven-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.
7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.

7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team
7.4. A. Fourteen (14) member All-Conference First Team and fourteen (14) member All-Conference Second Team as voted on by the coaches at the end of the regular season. The nomination limits will be as follows: 1st – 7; 2nd – 6; 3rd – 5; 4-6th – 4; 7-10th – 3
7.4. B. Plaques awarded to All-Conference First Team. Certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team.
7.4. C. Seven (7) member All-Freshman Team selected. Individuals shall be nominated and voted on by the coaches at the end of the regular season.
7.4. D. Certificates awarded to All-Freshman Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC volleyball players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous spring semester, are at least a sophomore, and complete the season of play shall be a member of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded

7.7. Player of the Week - A Setter, Defender and Attacker of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week in each category. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipients and submit the winners to the NAIA for national consideration.
Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the volleyball committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. The Board of Athletic Directors will act on all recommendations during the SSAC Annual Meetings. Amendments shall be for the following year’s season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner that they would want to be treated.
10.2. All host institutions are responsible for providing an official game scorekeeper, libero tracker, line judges and in-game statistics.
10.3. The host institution shall be responsible for having designated locker room facilities for the visiting team. A representative from the host institution shall be on hand to meet the visiting team upon arrival at the game site to show them to their locker room. The assigned locker room should be outfitted with a marker or chalkboard and the appropriate writing utensils.

Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. All uniforms shall meet NCAA guidelines.

Article 13 — Balls

13.1. The Baden PERFECTION volleyball is the official SSAC game ball and should be utilized in all conference matches.

Article 14 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Matches

14.1. If a conference match is postponed or discontinued for any reason, that match will be made up on the first open date common to both teams pending the approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date.

Article 15 — Eligibility

15.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

Article 16 — Miscellaneous
16.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.
16.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Volleyball National Championship shall be utilized.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head men’s basketball coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.
2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regards to issues relating to men’s basketball including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.
2.3. The committee shall meet once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair and secretary shall be elected positions by the committee membership. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of men’s basketball is Scott Moe of Middle Georgia.
3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Stacy Hollowell of Loyola. The current oversight committee is Jermael Bingham of Blue Mountain, Pat Todd of Florida College and Alex Ireland of Dalton State.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.
4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the men’s basketball committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.
4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but six (6) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures

5.1. A. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institutions outside the conference.
5.1. B. Conferences members are required to use the Synergy Tape Exchange and all SSAC games must be downloaded and posted by 10 a.m. (local time) the day following their contest. SSAC schools are not
allowed to provide film to non-SSAC members. The following sanctions will be levied if game tape policy is not followed:

- **Strike 1**: email warning sent to coach and AD.
- **Strike 2**: written warning sent to coach and AD.
- **Strike 3**: monetary fine of $100 paid to the conference office.

5.1. C. The host school will provide five (5) practice balls, water coolers, and ice to the visiting team.
5.1. D. All students are to be admitted at student prices upon presentation of valid I.D.
5.1. E. The first place team at the end of the regular season shall be named the regular-season champion. In case of a tie, there will be co-champions.
5.1. F. All weekday games (Monday – Friday) will start at 5:30/7:30 local time. Saturday games will start at 12:00/2:00 local time. In a Saturday/Monday situation the times can be established upon mutual agreement between coaches and athletic directors.
5.1. G. Time between women’s & men’s conference games: 25-minute warmup regardless of shootaround during women’s game.
5.1. H. Halftime shooting of women’s game will be left up to home team; responsibility is left up to the visiting team to contact the home team.
5.1. I. During conference play, no dunking will be allowed during warmups.

5.2. Regular Season Format
5.2. A. Each team will play 18 conference games.
5.2. B. With two automatic bids granted to the SSAC, the regular-season champion and tournament champion will each receive an automatic berth to the NAIA Men’s Basketball National Championship.

5.3. A. The SSAC will not permit dunking during any official warm-up period, this includes: halftime of the women’s game, pre-game warm-ups and halftime of the men’s game. The policy will be in effect during all SSAC regular-season conference games and during the conference championship. Schools need to let non-conference visiting teams know of this policy in their game contracts.
5.3. B. Spalding is the official ball of the SSAC for the 2019-20 season.

5.4. Game Officials - Under the direction of the commissioner, officials will be assigned by Hal Lusk.

5.5. Protest of Officials Decision
5.5. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives are prohibited.
5.5. B. Protests of an official’s decision will be submitted in writing to the SSAC commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy is mailed to the supervisor/booking agent.
5.5. C. A forum for the submission of official’s evaluations is also available through online official’s site, Arbiter.

**Article 6 — Conference Championship**

6.1. Dates – The SSAC Men’s Basketball Championship shall be a 10-team tournament held on March 4-7, 2020 at the Cramton Bowl Multiplex in Montgomery, Alabama.

6.2. Format
6.2. A. Ten teams shall qualify for the SSAC Championship tournament and shall be seeded according to regular season finish.

- **Opening Round**: Game 1: #8 vs. #9
  Game 2: #7 vs. #10
- **Quarterfinals**: Game 3: #4 vs. #5
  Game 4: #3 vs. #6
  Game 5: Winner Game 1 vs. #1
  Game 6: Winner Game 2 vs. #2
- **Semifinals**: Game 7: Winner of Game 3 vs. Winner of Game 5
  Game 8: Winner of Game 4 vs. Winner of Game 6
- **Championship**: Winners of the two semifinal games

Note: Arrangements to accommodate local teams with game time changes that would possibly boost tournament attendance will be considered.

6.2. B. Halftime will be 10 minutes for all opening round games and 12 minutes for all remaining games.

6.3. Site
6.3. A. All teams will play at one pre-determined tournament site. The tournament site will be determined by the conference commissioner and the Board of Athletic Directors.

6.4. Tiebreaker

6.4. A. TWO TEAMS
1. Highest win-loss percentage of head-to-head competition during the regular season.
2. Each teams’ win-loss percentage vs. the team occupying the highest position in the final regular-season standings, and then continuing down through the standings until one teams gains an advantage.
3. When arriving at another group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team’s record against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to that group’s own tie-breaking procedure), rather than the performance against individual tied teams.
4. Modified Krause System
5. If the records are the same against all teams, then the seeded position would be determined by a toss of the coin by the Southern States Athletic Conference Commissioner.

THREE OR MORE TEAMS
1. Highest win-loss percentage of the tied teams against each other is first considered.
2. Each teams’ win-loss percentage vs. the team occupying the highest position in the final regular-season standings, and then continuing down through the standings until one teams gains an advantage.
3. When arriving at another group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team’s record against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to that group’s own tie-breaking procedure), rather than the performance against individual tied teams.
4. Modified Krause System
5. If there is still a tie, the seeded position of the teams will be determined by a draw conducted by the Southern States Athletic Conference Commissioner.

* For all ties involving three or more teams, once the tie is broken and the highest-seeded team is determined, the remaining tied teams will revert back to the beginning of the applicable tiebreaker.

Modified Krause System using SSAC final conference standings:

a. 5 points, win against a winning team away
b. 4 points, win against a winning team at home
c. 4 points, win against a losing team away
d. 3 points, win against a losing team at home
e. 2 points, loss against a winning team away
f. 1 point, loss against a winning team at home
g. 1 point, loss against a losing team away
h. 0 points, loss against a losing team at home.

Notes:

i. The record to be considered is opponents’ overall SSAC record at the end of the season.
ii. Record of .500 is considered to be a winning record.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year
7.1. A. Selected by a vote of the coaches committee at the end of the regular season.
7.1. B. Plaques awarded.

7.2. Regular Season Champion
7.2. A. The team that wins the most games during the regular-season is considered the SSAC regular-season champion. If there is a tie, co-champions will be awarded.
7.2. B. Champion trophy is awarded.

7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the first automatic bid to the NAIA Men’s Basketball National Championship. The team that won the SSAC regular-season championship will receive the second automatic bid. If a team wins both the conference regular-season and
tournament championships, then the second automatic bid will be given to the conference tournament runner-up.

7.3. B. Champion trophy is awarded.
7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and five-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.
7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.

7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team
7.4. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference Team of 20 members shall be comprised of a First Team (10) and a Second Team (10)
7.4. B. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Freshman Team of 5 members.
7.4. C. Plaques awarded to the All-Conference First Team. Certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team and All-Freshman Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC basketball players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded

7.7. Player of the Week - A Player of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipient and submit the winner to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the basketball committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference web site.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in a manner they would want to be treated.
10.2. All host institutions are responsible for providing official game statistics at half time and at the conclusion of the game.
10.3. The host institution shall be responsible for having designated locker room facilities for the visiting team. A representative from the host institution shall be on hand to meet the visiting team upon arrival at the game site to show them to their locker room. The assigned locker room should be outfitted with a marker or chalkboard and the appropriate writing utensils.
10.4. The host institution shall provide the visiting team at least one (1) hour of practice time at the game site on game day and on the day prior to the game upon request. The visiting team has to request practice time for Friday and Saturday 60 days before the game; if not requested by then, practice time cannot be guaranteed.
10.5. Media timeouts used at 12-minute & 6-minute mark for both halves.
Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In-season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. Home teams wear light colored uniforms and visiting teams wear dark colored uniforms except for “crossover” Friday/Saturday games wherein the home teams will wear dark colored uniforms and the visiting team will wear light colored uniforms on the Saturday game to avoid having to do late night laundry while on the road.

Article 13 — Balls

13.1. The official game ball (Spalding) shall be utilized in all conference games and requested practices.

Article 14 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games

14.1. If a conference game is postponed or discontinued for any reason that game will be made up on the first open date common to both teams pending the approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date.

Article 15 — Eligibility

15.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

Article 16 — Miscellaneous

16.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.

16.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Championship shall be utilized.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head women’s basketball coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to women’s basketball including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be an elected position by the committee membership. The term shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of women’s basketball is Kellie Kennedy of Loyola.
3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Reed Sutton of Faulkner. The current oversight committee is Reed Sutton of Faulkner, Kellie Kennedy of Loyola and Billy Evans of Martin Methodist.

3.2. Duties
3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the women’s basketball committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but six (6) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures
5.1. A. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institutions outside the conference.
5.1. B. Conferences members are required to use the Synergy Tape Exchange and all SSAC games film and play-by-play must be downloaded and posted by 10 a.m. (local time) the day following their contest. SSAC schools are not allowed to provide film to non-SSAC members. The following sanctions will be levied if game tape policy is not followed:
   Strike 1- email warning sent to coach and AD.
   Strike 2- written warning sent to coach and AD.
   Strike 3- monetary fine of $100 paid to the conference office.
5.1. C. The host school will provide five (5) practice balls, water coolers, and ice to the visiting team.
5.1. D. All students are to be admitted at student prices upon presentation of valid I.D.
5.1. E. The first-place team at the end of the regular season shall be named the regular-season champion. If there is a tie, co-champions will be awarded.
5.1. F. All weekday games (Monday – Friday) will start at 5:30/7:30 local time. Saturday games will start at 12:00/2:00 local time. In a Saturday/Monday situation the times can be established upon mutual agreement between coaches and athletic directors.
5.1. G. Game scheduled Dec. 29 and 30 can be moved to Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 if approved by all four teams participating.
5.1. H. Following the final game of the regular-season you may not post any games on Synergy.

5.2. Regular Season Format
5.2. A. Each team will play 16-17 conference games.
5.2. B. The regular season champion and tournament champion both receive automatic bids to the NAIA National Championship. If the same team wins both, the tournament runner-up receives the 2nd bid.
5.2. C. The non-media timeout format will be used for all SSAC games.

5.3. Playing Rules - NCAA rules, non-media timeout format. Spalding will be the official game ball of the SSAC during the 2019-20 season.

5.4. Game Officials - Under the direction of the commissioner, officials will be assigned by Joe Cunningham.
5.5. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives are prohibited.
5.5. B. Protests of an official’s decision will be submitted in writing to the SSAC commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy is mailed to the supervisor/booking agent.
5.5. C. A forum for the submission of official’s evaluations is also available through online official’s site, Reftown.
Article 6 — Conference Championship

6.1. Dates — The SSAC Women’s Basketball Championship shall be a 10-team tournament held on March 4-7, 2020 at the Cramton Bowl Multiplex in Montgomery, Alabama.

6.2. Format

6.2. A. Ten teams shall qualify for the SSAC Championship tournament and shall be seeded according to regular season finish.

Opening Round:
- Game 1: #8 vs. #9
- Game 2: #7 vs. #10

Quarterfinals:
- Game 3: #4 vs. #5
- Game 4: #3 vs. #6
- Game 5: Winner Game 1 vs. #1
- Game 6: Winner Game 2 vs. #2

Semifinals:
- Game 7: Winner of Game 3 vs. Winner of Game 5
- Game 8: Winner of Game 2 vs. Winner of Game 4

Championship: Winners of the two semifinal games

Note: Arrangements to accommodate local teams with game time changes that would possibly boost tournament attendance will be considered.

6.2. B. Halftime will be 10 minutes for all opening round games and 12 minutes for all remaining games.

6.3. Site

6.3. A. All teams will play at one pre-determined tournament site. The tournament site will be determined by the conference commissioner and the Board of Athletic Directors.

6.4. Tiebreaker

6.4. A. TWO TEAMS

1. Highest win-loss percentage of head-to-head competition during the regular season.
2. Each team’s win-loss percentage vs. the team occupying the highest position in the final regular-season standings, and then continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
3. When arriving at another group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team’s record against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to that group’s own tie-breaking procedure), rather than the performance against individual tied teams.
4. Modified Krause System
5. If the records are the same against all teams, then the seeded position would be determined by a toss of the coin by the Southern States Athletic Conference Commissioner.

6.4. B. THREE OR MORE TEAMS

1. Highest win-loss percentage of the tied teams against each other is first considered.
2. Each team’s win-loss percentage vs. the team occupying the highest position in the final regular-season standings, and then continuing down through the standings until one team gains an advantage.
3. When arriving at another group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team’s record against the collective tied teams as a group (prior to that group’s own tie-breaking procedure), rather than the performance against individual tied teams.
4. Modified Krause System
5. If there is still a tie, the seeded position of the teams will be determined by a draw conducted by the Southern States Athletic Conference Commissioner.

* For all ties involving three or more teams, once the tie is broken and the highest-seeded team is determined, the remaining tied teams will revert back to the beginning of the applicable tiebreaker.

Modified Krause System using SSAC final conference standings:

a. 5 points, win against a winning team away
b. 4 points, win against a winning team at home
c. 4 points, win against a losing team away
d. 3 points, win against a losing team at home
e. 2 points, loss against a winning team away
f. 1 point, loss against a winning team at home
g. 1 point, loss against a losing team away
Notes:
i. The record to be considered is opponents’ overall SSAC record at the end of the season.
ii. Record of .500 is considered to be a winning record.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year
7.1. A. Selected by a vote of the coaches committee at the end of the regular season.
7.1. B. Plaques awarded.
7.2. Regular Season Champion
7.2. A. The team that wins the most games during the regular-season is considered the SSAC regular-season champion and receives the 1st automatic bid to the NAIA Women’s Basketball National Championship. If there is a tie, co-champions will be awarded.
7.2. B. Champion and runner-up plaques awarded.
7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the 2nd automatic bid to the NAIA Women’s Basketball National Championship.
7.3. B. Champion and runner-up plaques awarded.
7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and five-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.
7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.
7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team
7.4. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference Team of 20 members shall be comprised of a First Team (10) and a Second Team (10)
7.4. B. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Freshman Team of 5 members.
7.4. C. Plaques awarded to the All-Conference First Team. Certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team and All-Freshman Team.
7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC basketball players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.
7.6. Champions of Character
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded
7.7. Player of the Week - A Player of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipient and submit the winner to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the basketball committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.

9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference web site.

**Article 10 — Protocol**

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in a manner they would want to be treated.

10.2. All host institutions are responsible for providing official game statistics at half time and at the conclusion of the game.

10.3. The host institution shall be responsible for having designated locker room facilities for the visiting team. A representative from the host institution shall be on hand to meet the visiting team upon arrival at the game site to show them to their locker room. The assigned locker room should be outfitted with a marker or chalkboard and the appropriate writing utensils.

10.4. The host institution shall provide the visiting team at least one (1) hour of practice time at the game site on game day and on the day prior to the game upon request. The visiting team has to request practice time for Friday and Saturday by October 15; if not requested by then, practice time cannot be guaranteed.

10.5. No media timeouts

**Article 11 — Practice Schedule**

11.1. In-season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

**Article 12 — Uniforms**

12.1. Home teams wear light colored uniforms and visiting teams wear dark colored uniforms except for “crossover” Friday/Saturday games wherein the home teams will wear dark colored uniforms and the visiting team will wear light colored uniforms on the Saturday game to avoid having to do late night laundry while on the road.

**Article 13 — Balls**

13.1. The official game ball (Spalding) shall be utilized in all conference games and requested practices.

**Article 14 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games**

14.1. If a conference game is postponed or discontinued for any reason that game will be made up on the first open date common to both teams pending the approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date.

**Article 15 — Eligibility**

15.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

**Article 16 — Miscellaneous**

16.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.

16.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Championship shall be utilized.
COMPETITIVE CHEER & DANCE

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Competitive Cheer & Dance Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head competitive cheer & dance coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to cheer and dance including, but not limited to, championship format.

2.3. The committee shall meet once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be an elected position by the committee membership. The term shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of competitive cheer & dance is Rickey Hill of Loyola.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the competitive cheer & dance committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, which is necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures

5.1. A. There will be a competition held at Loyola Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. There will be a cheer division and a dance division at the SSAC Competitive Cheer & Dance Championships.

5.1. B. A regular season invitational will be held Jan. 31 at Loyola.

5.2. Competition Guidelines

5.2. The maximum number of competitors for cheer is 20 and dance is 16.

5.3. Protest of Official Decision

5.3. A. Public comments about officials by coaches or institutional representatives is strictly prohibited.

5.4. B. Any protest of an official’s misapplication of rules or laws must be submitted in writing to the SSAC Commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director.

Article 6 — Conference Championship

6.1. Dates – The SSAC will conduct a competitive cheer & dance championship on February 1, 2020 at Loyola

6.2. Format

6.2. A. A tournament entry fee will be required for all participating teams. The fee covers the banquet, awards, t-shirts, insurance and judges.

6.3. Site – The event will be held at Loyola’s gymnasium in New Orleans, La. All teams must stay at hotels assigned by Loyola.
Article 7 — Awards

7.1 Best All-Around Female, Best All-Around Male, Best Rookie and Coach of the Year
7.1 A. Cheer and Dance Coach of the Year goes to coach of the tournament champion
7.1 B. Individual awards decided during all-conference competition
7.1 C. Plaques awarded

7.2 All-Conference Team
7.2 A. Coaches will pick athletes to compete for Cheer All-Conference and Dance All-Conference honors
7.2 B. No more than four performers per school
7.2 C. Medals awarded

7.3 All-Academic Team
7.3 A. All SSAC cheer and dance athletes who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.3 B. Certificates awarded

7.4 Champions of Character
7.4 A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.4 B. Certificates awarded

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the competitive cheer & dance committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year's season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference web site.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.

Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In-season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. All rules and regulations of the NAIA shall apply to all participants.

Article 13 — Eligibility

13.1. All rules and regulations of the SSAC and the NAIA shall apply to all participants.

Article 14 — Miscellaneous

14.1. Safety certification to be required and documented
MEN’S & WOMEN’S GOLF

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Golf Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head golf coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to golf including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be elected positions by the committee membership. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of men’s golf is T.J. Jackson of Mobile. The current chair of women’s golf is Jeff Mixon of William Carey.

3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current men’s golf rater is Ben Rickett of Dalton State. The men’s and women’s oversight committee is Kevin Barefield of Blue Mountain, TJ Jackson of Mobile and Drew Goff of Loyola. The current women’s golf rater is Jim McGrew of Dalton State.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

3.2. B. The NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will oversee the weekly conference rating via conference call and report the rating to the NAIA office.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site

4.1. A. The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the one of the championships. The meeting may be held at the conference tournament site if the date of the SSAC Annual Meetings conflicts with the NAIA Men’s or Women’s Golf National Championships. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the men’s & women’s golf committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but four (4) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Championships

5.1. Dates – The SSAC Women’s Golf Championship will be contested April 6-8, 2020. The SSAC Men’s Golf Championship will be played April 20-22, 2020. Both championships will be played at RTJ at Cambrian Ridge in Greenville, Alabama. Beginning January 1, no practice rounds are permitted prior to the official practice round date in conjunction with the conference championship.

5.2. Championship Format
5.2. A. The host site for the conference championships will be determined by the conference commissioner and the committee chair. If any changes are necessary at the host site, the responsibility will rest with the conference commissioner and the committee chair.
5.2. B. The conference championships will be a 54-hole tournament for men and women. All teams sponsoring the sport must participate.
5.2. C. 36 holes must be completed to determine a champion for men and women.
5.2. D. If 36 holes cannot be completed, the AQ will go to the highest ranked team in the most recent NAIA rankings.

5.3. Site
5.3. A. The SSAC conference championships will be contested at RTJ at Cambrian Ridge in Greenville, Alabama in 2020.

5.4. Coaches Meeting at the Conference Tournament
5.4. A. A meeting of all head coaches or his/her designee participating in the conference tournament may be held during the official practice round the day prior to the tournament. All tournament details shall be reviewed.
5.4. B. If a meeting is held, attendance is mandatory for all participating schools.

5.5. Tiebreaker
5.5. A. Ties in the championship will be determined by a sudden death playoff with all five (5) members of the team playing and counting the best four (4) scores. Hole(s) to be determined by the host club professional and/or the Rules Committee.
5.5. B. Medalist ties will be decided by sudden death playoff at a hole determined by the host club professional and/or the Rules Committee.

5.6. Playing Rules
5.6. A. All USGA rules are applicable.
5.6. B. All host club rules are applicable.

5.7. Tournament Officials
5.7. A. The host club professional, conference office representative and two other designees shall serve as the Rules Committee.
5.7. B. The host club professional and/or conference office representative may serve as the tournament director.

5.8. Protest of Officials Decision
5.8. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is prohibited.
5.8. B. Any protest of an official’s misapplication of rules or laws must be submitted in writing to the SSAC Commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director.

Article 6 — Awards

6.1. Player of Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year
6.1. A. Selected by a vote of the coaches committee at the end of the championship.
6.1. B. Plaques awarded.
6.1. C. 10-round minimum for full season and 8-round minimum for one semester for individual awards.

6.2. Regular Season Champion
6.2. A. There is no regular season champion.

6.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
6.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC championship will receive the automatic berth to the NAIA Men’s or Women’s Golf National Championships. The individual medalist will also receive an automatic bid if he/she is not a member of the winning team.
6.3. B. Champion trophy is awarded.
6.3. C. The top five finishers, including ties, will be named to the All-Tournament Team.
6.3. D. Plaque awarded to the individual medalist. Flags awarded to the All-Tournament Team.

6.4. All-Conference Team/All-Freshman Team
6.4. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference First Team of 12 members. Any player in the Golfstat top 100 will receive the award.
6.4. B. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Freshman Team of 5 members.
6.4. C. Plaques awarded to the All-Conference First Team. Certificates awarded to the All-Freshman Team.
6.5. All-Academic Team
6.5. A. All SSAC golfers who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
6.5. B. Certificates awarded.

6.6. Champions of Character
6.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
6.6. B. Certificates awarded

6.7. Player of the Week - A Golfer of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipient and submit the winner to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 7 — Amendments to Operating Policies

7.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the golf committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

Article 8 — Publicity

8.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website by 11:00 a.m. the following day. All weekend game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within 24 hours of completion or sooner.
8.2. The host institution SID is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

Article 9 — Protocol

9.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.

Article 10 — Practice Schedule

10.1. In-season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

Article 11 — Uniforms

11.1. Proper golf attire shall be worn in accordance with the host club rules and generally accepted golf standards.

Article 12 — Balls

12.1. Conform to USGA standards. No official ball is designated for NAIA postseason play.

Article 13 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games

13.1. The host club professional and/or conference office representative shall decide if play should be called off or delayed in case of inclement weather or darkness.
13.2. If rained out on any day and all teams have completed the same 9 holes, then those 9 holes will count towards championship.

Article 14 — Eligibility

14.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.
Article 15 — Miscellaneous

15.1. The tournament champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish at the SSAC Men’s or Women’s Golf Championship.

15.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Men's and Women's Golf Championships shall be utilized.

MEN’S & WOMEN’S TENNIS

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Men's and Women's Tennis Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head tennis coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to tennis including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair and secretary shall be elected positions by the committee membership. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of men’s & women’s tennis is Uwe Tittl of Mobile.

3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current men’s tennis rater is Uwe Tittl of Mobile. The current women’s tennis rater is Tom Bates of Middle Georgia. The current oversight committee is Tom Bates and Chip Smith of Middle Georgia State and Uwe Tittl of Mobile.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

3.2. B. The secretary shall, in the absence of the chair, assume all duties of that position. The secretary shall record minutes of all meetings of the committee and provide retention of committee records.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. The meeting may be held at the conference tournament site if the date of the SSAC Annual Meetings conflicts with the NAIA Men’s & Women’s Tennis National Championships. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the tennis committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of the conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but a majority of the schools that sponsor tennis are necessary to recommend change in policies or procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play
5.1. General Policies and Procedures

5.1. A. All conference teams will play at least once each academic year in head-to-head competition. Matches must be played in the spring, and all must be played to completion. All conference matches must be completed one week prior to the conference tournament in order to determine standings and seeding for the conference championship tournaments.

5.1. B. All SSAC matches will be played. Teams that are unable to play will play at the next available playing date pending approval of the participating institution’s athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date. The week prior to the conference tournament may be utilized as rain dates if no other make-up dates are available per approval of the participating athletic directors.

5.1. C. If two institutions elect to play more than once, the official conference match shall be determined in advance and listed as such on the match contract.

5.1. D. The host institution shall arrange for scoreboards on each court to be used throughout the entire match.

5.1. E. Each team shall provide their own balls for warmup. Team introductions will be given for all matches 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of that match.

5.1. F. Each coach shall submit their singles and doubles lineup according to strength. In case of injury or sickness, all players must move up.

5.1. G. Match format will consist of three doubles matches (six-game pro set playing first), followed by six singles matches (best two out of three sets). All matches will be played to completion in the regular season. Once the match outcome has been determined, any remaining matches with split sets shall utilize a super tiebreaker to determine the third set.

5.1. H. All teams in the conference will play each other during the regular season, using a round-up format, two weekends in the spring: one in Mobile, Ala., and one in Dalton, Ga. Set up: two matches on Friday and one match on Saturday; Sunday will be used as a contingency day. Teams that host conference matches must provide Wilson US Open balls. Matches played to completion (9 matches).

5.1. I. Tie-breaking criteria for rating purposes: 1. Head to head; In case of interlocking losses (A beats B; B beats C; C beats A), the following criteria will be used: 2. Total individual matches won against tied teams, 3. If two teams are still tied, then use head-to-head, 4. If all three teams are still tied, coin flip by the conference office.

5.2. Playing Rules - ITA Rules

5.3. Game Officials

5.3. A. The host school is strongly encouraged to provide a USTA certified official to oversee SSAC matches.

5.3. B. A minimum of two USTA officials shall officiate the conference tournament.

5.4. Protest of Officials Decision

5.4. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is prohibited.

5.4. B. Any protest of an official’s misapplication of rules or laws must be submitted in writing to the SSAC Commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director.

Article 6 — Conference Championships

6.1. Conference Tournament Format

6.1. A. The SSAC Men’s & Women’s Tennis Championships have been set for April 22-24, 2020 in Mobile, Alabama. Saturday, April 25 will be utilized as a contingency rain day. A minimum of 12 courts are required to host the conference tournament.

6.1. B. The top 6 teams in the final conference standings (Men and Women) will qualify for the conference tournament and will be seeded 1-6 based on the regular-season standings. Teams will be re-seeded after the first round.

6.1. C. Lineups for Conference Tournament: Players must compete at the position they played 50% of their regular season matches.
6.1. D. A minimum of two USTA certified officials will be assigned to act as referees for the matches. His or her duties will include: assignment of tennis courts, decisions to call off play due to darkness/weather, to act as final interpreter of rules and maintain sportsmanlike conduct by participants and spectators.

6.1. E. The tournament committee consists of the tennis chair, the host coach, a conference office representative and a tournament referee.

6.1. F. Match format will consist of three doubles matches (six-game pro set playing first), followed by six singles matches (best two out of three sets). Matches will not start earlier than the scheduled times unless agreed upon by both head coaches and the conference office representative. All matches will start at 10 a.m. and stop at 4.

6.1. G. Method of determining regular season champion and tournament seeds in case of a tie: (1) Head to head competition among all tied teams; (2) Head to head against all seeds beginning with the highest seed, (3) Match scores against all tied teams, (4) Coin flip by the conference office. When more than two teams are tied: 1) Sets won 2) Games won 3) Which team’s highest player won the most against the other two 6.1. M. Once practice courts are available, there will be a pre-match 20-minute warm-up period for each team.

6.1. N. A lineup form will be completed and submitted to the commissioner with a copy to the tournament director by each head coach by April 15, listing all roster players (singles and doubles) in order by strength. All player lineups are based on 50% played at that position in singles and doubles in SSAC play only. Players can only move up if a player is taken out of the line-up.

6.1. O. Any appeals relative to a submitted line-up must be filed with the tournament committee at that time.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year

7.1. A. Selected by a vote of the coaches committee at the end of the regular season.

7.1. B. Plaques awarded.

7.2. Regular Season Champion

7.2. A. The team that wins the most matches during the regular-season is considered the SSAC regular-season champion. If there is a tie, co-champions will be recognized.

7.2. B. Champion trophy is awarded.

7.3. Tournament

7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the automatic bid to the NAIA Men’s & Women’s Tennis National Championships.

7.3. B. Champion trophy is awarded.

7.4 C. Tournament MVP will be selected after the tournament.

7.4. All-Conference Team

7.4. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference First Team of 16 members.

7.4. B. Plaques awarded to the All-Conference First Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team

7.5. A. All SSAC tennis players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.

7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character

7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.

7.6. B. Certificates awarded.

7.7. Player of the Week - A Player of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipient and submit the winner to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies
8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the tennis committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

**Article 9 — Publicity**

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.

9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.

9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

**Article 10 — Protocol**

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests, and in the manner that they would want to be treated.

10.2. In compliance with ITA regulations within the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, all matches should begin promptly at the specified starting time. In lieu of having a referee during regular-season matches, the host athletic director/designee or head coach shall make sure that the start of the team match conforms to the time established in the contract.

10.3. By mutual agreement of ITA coaches, individual matches may be delayed by a predetermined period of time to accommodate a player late for a legitimate reason.

10.4. In compliance with ITA regulations within the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, if a team is not ready to begin its team match at the specified starting time, each player on the starting lineup in singles shall begin one game down and shall be deemed to have lost the toss.

**Article 11 — Practice Schedule**

11.1. In season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

**Article 12 — Uniforms**

12.1. Proper tennis attire with school and/or conference logo.

**Article 13 — Balls**

13.1. Conform to USTA standards. Wilson is the official tennis ball of the NAIA and should be used in all conference matches.

**Article 14 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games**

14.1. The host tennis coach shall decide if any match should be called due to inclement weather or darkness.

14.2. If a conference match is postponed or discontinued for any reason, that match will be made up on the first open date common to both teams pending the approval of the participating athletic directors and conference commissioner. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, the coaches shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date.

**Article 15 — Miscellaneous**

15.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.
15.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Men's & Women's Tennis National Championship shall be utilized.

15.3. The policies for men's and women's tennis shall be the same but considered separate sports.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Track and Field Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head track & field coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to men’s soccer including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

2.3. The committee shall meet officially once a year and submit a report of recommendations for future years of operations at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be an elected position by the committee membership. The term shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of track & field is Andy Canegitta of Mobile.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Championships. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the track & field committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, which is necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures

5.1. A. The conference championship will be determined by NAIA Track & Field Scoring. The SSAC Men’s & Women’s Track & Field Championships will correspond with the distances associated with the NAIA Men’s & Women’s Track & Field National Championships.

5.1. B. No inter-conference regular-season competition is required.

5.1. C. The host institution is responsible for distribution of information pertaining to the SSAC championship.

5.1. D. Official entry in the conference meet shall be in compliance with NAIA postseason entry procedures.

5.2. Regular Season Format - No regular season meets are required.

5.3. Playing Rules - All NAIA Track & Field rules, as outlined in the NAIA Track & Field Manual, and SSAC rules are applicable.

5.4. Officials - The host shall use a neutral referee at conference meets. The referee shall be certified by the USATF and will be provided and secured by the host.

5.5. Protest of Officials Decision

5.5. A. Public comments about meet officials by coaches or institutional representatives is strictly prohibited.
5.5. B. The referee will rule over any protests and the decision of the referee will be final. Protests must be filed within 30 minutes after the unofficial results are released.

**Article 6 — Conference Championships**

**6.1. Championship Format**
6.1. A. The championship site shall be determined by the committee membership at their annual meeting pending approval by the Board of Athletic Directors.
6.1. B. The 2020 meet will take place April 17-18, 2020 at William Carey in Hattiesburg, Miss.

**6.2. Qualifying Procedures**
6.2 A. General – Outdoor

1. Each team can enter four (4) athletes per event.
   i. Athletes must participate in that event prior to the SSAC track meet. If that athlete fails to compete in that event, they will not be allowed to participate at the conference meet.
   ii. Each institution will be allowed two right of entry per gender/team
   iii. Each team will be able to exceed the minimum (4) entry with individuals that meet the current conference qualifying standards, but cannot exceed 8 entries per event.

2. Marks must be performed in a scheduled collegiate or open track and field meet. Practice marks or relay splits may not be used. A meet is defined as two or more collegiate teams competing in six or more events per gender. The exceptions are field meets and multi-event meets.

3. Qualifying marks for the SSAC Championship can be established anytime during the institution’s outdoor track and field season, but prior to the SSAC entry deadline. **Please note the outdoor track and field season begins the day after the conclusion of the indoor championship except for programs that do not sponsor indoor track and field.**

4. Road race time are not allowed as entries into the 5,000 or 10,000-meter events.

5. Hand times are not accepted in events of 200 meters or less.

6. All performances to be used for qualification for the SSAC Championship meet must be reported on TFRRS.

**B. Maximum Entries Per Event**
1. Institutions may enter as many athletes into an event as there are places to score

**C. 2019-20 Standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4x100m Relay</td>
<td>1 Entry Per Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4x400m Relay</td>
<td>1 Entry Per Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4x800m Relay</td>
<td>1 Entry Per Team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Jump</td>
<td>1.90m/6'2.75”</td>
<td>1.60m/5’3”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pole Vault</td>
<td>4.52m/14’10”</td>
<td>3.40m/11’2”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Jump</td>
<td>6.98m/22’11”</td>
<td>5.39m/17’8.25”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triple Jump</td>
<td>14m/45’11.25”</td>
<td>11.20m/36’9”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot Put</td>
<td>15m/49’2.25”</td>
<td>12.8m/42’0”</td>
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<td>Discus</td>
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<td>40.4m/145’8”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammer</td>
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<td>44m/144’5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javelin</td>
<td>52m/170’7”</td>
<td>36m/118’2”</td>
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</table>

* Achieving the 3,000m/5,000m standard will qualify you for the 10,000m
Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Track / Field Athlete of the Year, Freshmen Track / Field Athlete of the Year, Championship MVP and Coach of the Year
7.1. A. The male/female track/field Athlete of the Year.
7.1. B. Top freshman male/female track/field Athlete of the Year.
7.1. C. Top scorer male/female at the SSAC Men’s & Women’s Track & Field Championships.
7.1. C. Coach of the Year is selected by a vote of the coaches at the end of the championship for men/women.
7.1. D. Plaques awarded.
7.2. Team Champion
7.2. A. Champion trophy is awarded.
7.3. All-Conference Team
7.3. A. The top 3 finishers in each event male and female will be named to the All-Conference team.
7.3. B. Medals will be awarded to the top 3 male/female finishers of each event.
7.3. C. First place finishers will be noted as First Team All-Conference, second place finishers will be listed as Second Team All-Conference and third place finishers will be recognized as Third Team All-Conference.
7.4. All-Academic Team
7.4. A. All SSAC track & field athletes who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.4. B. Certificates awarded.
7.5. Champions of Character
7.5. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded
7.6. Player of the Week - A Track Athlete of the Week & Field Athlete of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week in each category. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipient and submit the winner to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the track & field committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.

Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.
Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. Proper track & field attire shall be worn in accordance with the generally accepted track & field standards and NAIA regulations.

Article 13 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games

13.1. Postponement/Delay

13.1. A. A meet committee consisting of the referee and the conference office representative shall make the decision about postponing the SSAC Men’s & Women’s Track & Field Championships due to inclement weather that endangers participants.

13.1. B. The event is scheduled for A.M. competition and therefore the event will be delayed until it can be conducted later that day. Each institution has been notified that they must be prepared to remain at the event on that Saturday until the meet is completed or the on-site meet committee determines that it cannot be run.

Article 14 — Eligibility

14.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

Article 15 — Miscellaneous

15.1. The winner of the SSAC Track & Field Championship shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish at the SSAC Track & Field Championship.

15.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the NAIA Men’s & Women’s Track & Field National Championships shall be utilized. The policies for men's and women's track & field shall be the same but considered separate sports.

BASEBALL

Article 1 — Title - Southern States Athletic Conference Baseball Committee

Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head baseball coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to baseball including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and schedules.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair and secretary shall be elected positions by the committee membership. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of baseball is Curt Fowler of Blue Mountain.

3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and have three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Aaron Larsen of Brewton-Parker. The current oversight is Rusty Thompson of Bethel, Bobby Halford of William Carey and Terrance Whittle of Stillman.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

3.2. B. The secretary shall, in the absence of the chair, assume all duties of that position. The secretary shall record minutes of all meetings of the committee and provide retention of committee records.
3.2. C. The NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will oversee the weekly conference rating via conference call and report the rating to the NAIA office.

**Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum**

4.1. **Date and Site** – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held at the SSAC Championship. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. **Reporting** - The annual report of the baseball committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. **Quorum** - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but eight (8) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

**Article 5 — Conference Play**

5.1. **General Policies and Procedures**

5.1. A. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institutions inside or outside the conference.

5.1. B. There is no mandatory lineup for handshake following conference games. We recommend that handshakes take place following game three of a series.

5.1. C. The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products is not permitted by participants, coaches, trainers, cheerleaders, game administrators, or officials in the playing areas during all NAIA regular season and national tournament competition and practices for such competition. The institution’s coaching staff, event games committee, administrator or host site coordinator (as applicable) shall enforce this policy through the following steps:

1. On the first offense, the individual(s) shall receive an official warning.
2. A second offense will cause expulsion from the game, tournament or event.

5.1. D. The pre-game warm-up schedule for SSAC games will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Game Item</th>
<th>12:00 Start</th>
<th>1:00</th>
<th>2:00</th>
<th>3:00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Home BP</td>
<td>10:00-10:40</td>
<td>11:00-11:40</td>
<td>12:00-12:40</td>
<td>1:00-1:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor Infield</td>
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<td>12:30-12:40</td>
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<td>2:30-2:40</td>
<td>4:30-4:40</td>
<td>6:30-6:40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1. E. The pre-game warm-up schedule may be altered if agreed upon by both coaches.

5.1. F. Batting practice will be taken on the field before all SSAC games.

5.1. G. In the case of wet conditions or a damaged field, batting practices may be limited to cages only, with opportunity also provided for the visiting team. Decision to use cages will be made by the home team.

5.2. **Regular-Season Format**

5.2. A. Each team will play each conference opponent three times in a season. Each conference series shall consist of two nine-inning games and one seven-inning game.

5.2. B. Due to weather, two schools, if mutually agreed upon by the coaches, can play three conference games between Thursday and Sunday. Schedule changes must be approved by the athletic director and conference commissioner.

5.2. C. Single games are to be nine innings and doubleheaders are to consist of a seven-inning game followed by a nine-inning game. If the 1st game of the doubleheader goes over 7 innings the 2nd game automatically becomes a seven-inning game. The Friday single nine-inning game stands alone whether you play it first or move it to Saturday to play the doubleheader first (in that event, teams would play 7 and 9 on Friday and 9 on Saturday). The only game that can be affected by an extra-inning game is the nine-inning game after the seven-inning game on the doubleheader day.
5.2. D. Game dates will be issued from the conference office and game times will be agreed upon by the coaches from the competing schools, but are ultimately set by the home team. Conference games, unless otherwise approved by the commissioner, are scheduled for Friday/Saturday with Thursday, Sunday and Monday available as rain dates. Games on the final series of the year prior to the conference tournament format will also be played on Friday/Saturday format.

5.2. E. If the third game in a series cannot be completed and considered an official contest, then the game would end in a tie.

5.2. F. If the venue site has been changed due to weather, the team that was originally scheduled to be the home team remains the home team for the series.

5.2. G. Halted Game Completion
- Any game during the three game series between two conference opponents must be concluded the next day or the next playable day (example would be if first game was started on a Friday night, was halted due to rain before completion, and then picked up the next day and finished from the time it was halted. If play could not resume on Saturday and both teams were in agreement to play on a Sunday in this case, then the halted game would be completed at this time.)
- Three games cannot be played in one day due to travel rules enforced by AD's. 2 games will be the maximum games to be played in one day. (Two games would equal a halted game completion plus a nine inning game the next day, if halted game occurs.)
- The window for playing the three games is from Thursday to Sunday, depending on agreement from both teams, supervisor of umpires, both AD's and the conference office. All changes should be requested through the conference office from both team's AD's.

5.2. H. If inclement weather occurs, we will follow the Major League Baseball rainout rule for the single game.

5.2. I. No conference game shall start after 9:00 p.m. local time.

5.3. Playing Rules
5.3. A. All SSAC regular-season games will be played according to the Major League Baseball rules and regulations with the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association modifications.

5.4. Game Officials
5.4. A. Game officials for SSAC baseball games will be scheduled by Mike McCray, the SSAC Coordinator of Officials with all of the schools paying the agreed upon conference fees. This includes providing the umpires one double hotel room night for each conference series.

5.4. B. Umpires for the SSAC tournament will be nominated by the coaches for consideration by McCray.

5.4. C. At the start of the season each institution will receive from the Supervisor of Officials a master schedule of umpire assignments. Each institution will also receive a master list of umpire's names, hometown and sleeve number.

5.5. Protest of Officials' Decision
5.5. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is strictly prohibited.

5.5. B. Any protest of an official’s misapplication of rules or laws must be submitted in writing to the SSAC Commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy should also be sent to the supervisor of officials.

5.6. Rainout Policy
5.6. A. The personnel from each of the competing institutions should do everything possible to complete their three game conference series within a Thursday to Sunday time frame.

5.6. B. There is a no makeup policy after this window of time.

5.6. C. Conference teams are required to have a tarp unless the primary facility utilized by the institution has an artificial playing surface.

Article 6 — Conference Championship

6.1. Dates - The SSAC Baseball Championship will be held on April 29 – May 2, 2020 in Montgomery, Alabama.

6.1. A. Dates for the SSAC tournament will be finalized one year in advance.

6.2. Format
6.2. A. Eight teams shall qualify for the SSAC Baseball Championship and shall be seeded according to the regular season order of finish by conference record winning percentage. First round pairings will be #1 vs. #8, #2 vs. #7, #3 vs. #6, and #4 vs. #5.
6.2. B. Method of determining automatic qualifiers, if applicable, and seeds in case of tie: (1) Head to head competition, (2) Winning percentage of tied teams against common SSAC opponents, (3) Latest NAIA National Ranking and (4) a coin toss by the commissioner.

6.2. C. The tournament is a double-elimination tournament for all eight participating teams with a 10-run rule after seven complete innings for conference tournament non-elimination games.

6.2. D. All teams will play at a pre-determined tournament site. The tournament site will be determined for a one-year period by the conference office.

6.2. E. The practice schedule at the SSAC tournament shall be determined by the conference office representative with consideration of the proximity of the participating institutions in mind.

6.2. F. The home team and dugout will be determined by a coin toss with the team winning having the choice of being the home or visiting team. Designated visitors will then have their choice of dugouts.

6.2. G. A protest committee shall be formed by the commissioner. The committee shall consist of three members of which one must be an assigned tournament umpire.

6.2. H. Appendix H rosters in the NAIA coaches manual have to be submitted to the NAIA National Office and the SSAC conference office prior to tournament play beginning.

6.3. Site

6.3. A The tournament will be at Paterson Field in Montgomery, Ala.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year

7.1. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches.

7.1. B. Plaques awarded.

7.2. Regular Season Champion

7.2. A. The team that wins the most games during the regular-season is considered the SSAC regular-season champion and receives one bid to the NAIA Baseball National Championship. If there is a tie, co-champions will be recognized.

7.2. B. Champion trophy is awarded.

7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team

7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the second automatic bid to the NAIA Baseball National Championship. If it’s the same team as the first bid, the runner-up gets the bid.

7.3. B. Champion trophy is awarded.

7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and nine-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.

7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.

7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team/Gold Glove Team

7.4. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference Team of 34 members shall be comprised of a First Team (17) and a Second Team (17). Each team will be comprised of two (2) catchers, four (4) starting pitchers, one (1) relief pitcher, five (5) infielders, one (1) utility infielder, and four (4) outfielders.

7.4. B. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Freshman Team of 9 members.

7.4. C. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. Gold Glove Team of 9 members.

7.4. D. Plaques awarded to the All-Conference First Team and Gold Glove Team. Certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team and All-Freshman Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team

7.5. A. All SSAC baseball players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.

7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character

7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.

7.6. B. Certificates awarded

7.7. Player of the Week - A Player of the Week and Pitcher of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote
for one candidate per week in each category. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipients and submit the winners to the NAIA for national consideration.

**Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies**

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the baseball committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

**Article 9 — Publicity**

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

**Article 10 — Protocol**

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner they would want to be treated.

**Article 11 — Practice Schedule**

11.1. In season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

**Article 12 — Uniforms**

12.1. Both teams shall wear official team uniforms. During both regular and postseason competition, coaches of the participating teams should decide which color uniforms each will wear. If both coaches cannot agree on uniform color, then the home team will decide what uniform color will be worn.

**Article 13 — Balls**

13.1. The Rawlings R100-NAIA “low seam” is the official SSAC baseball and shall be used in all conference games, matching the NAIA adoption.

**Article 14 — Eligibility**

14.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

**Article 15 — Miscellaneous**

15.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.
15.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of NAIA postseason competition shall be utilized.

**SOFTBALL**

**Article 1 — Title** - Southern States Athletic Conference Softball Committee
Article 2 — Committee Structure

2.1. The committee shall be comprised of the head softball coach from each member institution. Each coach shall have one vote.

2.2. The committee shall be a recommending body to the Board of Athletic Directors with regard to issues relating to softball including, but not limited to, officiating, championship formats, and SSAC schedules.

Article 3 — Officers and Appointments

3.1. Status and Term of Office

3.1. A. The committee chair shall be an elected position by the committee membership. The term shall be for a period of two years. The current chair of softball is Hal Wynn of Faulkner.

3.1. B. The committee shall elect one national rater and three members of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee. If there is a problem or challenge to the ratings the entire NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee will convene. The terms shall be for a period of two years. The current rater is Alison Sellers-Cook of Mobile. The current oversight committee is Craig Fletcher of William Carey, Brandie Paul of Martin Methodist and Hal Wynn of Faulkner.

3.2. Duties

3.2. A. The chair shall call and preside over meetings of the committee. The chair shall make all necessary arrangements and report in the proper format all recommendations to the Board of Athletic Directors.

Article 4 — Meeting and Quorum

4.1. Date and Site – The committee will meet at least once each academic year to transact business and develop recommendations. The meeting should be held in conjunction with the SSAC Annual Meetings. The meeting may be held at the conference tournament site if the date of the SSAC Annual Meetings conflicts with the NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Rounds. Final recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Athletic Directors for approval at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.2. Reporting - The annual report of the softball committee shall be filed with the Board of Athletic Directors and the SSAC office at the SSAC Annual Meetings.

4.3. Quorum - A majority of all conference school representatives present constitutes a quorum, but five (5) votes are necessary to recommend a change in policies and procedures.

Article 5 — Conference Play

5.1. General Policies and Procedures

5.1. A. The first place team at the end of the regular season shall be the regular-season champion and receive the highest seed into the SSAC conference tournament. In case of a tie, the teams tied will be named co-regular season champions.

5.1. B. No scouting reports on conference teams will be given by any conference members to any other institutions inside or outside the conference.

5.1. C. All SSAC games will be played. Teams which are unable to play will play at the next available playing date. If this date cannot be agreed upon by the two head coaches, each coach shall involve their athletic director and a date will be set be the athletic directors and conference commissioner. If the athletic directors are unable to agree upon a date, the conference office will set a date. Sunday make-ups are encouraged for those teams that are allowed to play on Sunday.

5.1. D. Incomplete games due to darkness or weather are addressed under Section 14 below.

5.1. E. Umpire evaluations are to be done through the Arbiter system.

5.2. Regular Season Format

5.2. A. Each team shall play each conference member four games (two dates).

5.2. B. If there are extenuating circumstances, the final decision will rest with the conference commissioner.

5.3. Playing Rules

5.3. A. NCAA rules.

5.3. B. The international tiebreaker will be kept for regular-season games starting in the tenth inning.
5.4. Game Officials
5.4. A. Certified officials assigned by Steve Marcus.
5.4. B. If for any uncontrollable reason only one official is present at game time, the game will be played as scheduled.
5.4. C. Umpire cancellation - 1) No fees if canceled 4 hours before the scheduled start time by notifying assignor or crew chief in writing 2) 1 game fee per umpire if canceled less than 4 hours before scheduled start time by notifying assignor or crew chief in writing 3) Full game fees for both umpires if canceled after they arrive on site

5.5. Protest of Officials Decision
5.5. A. Public comments about game officials by coaches or institutional representatives is strictly prohibited.
5.5. B. Any protest of an official’s misapplication of rules or laws must be submitted in writing to the SSAC Commissioner and have the signature of the head coach and athletic director. A copy should also be sent to the supervisor of officials.

Article 6 — Conference Championship

6.1. Dates - The SSAC Softball Championship will be held on April 30 – May 2, 2020 in Decatur, Alabama.
6.2. Format
6.2. A. Nine teams shall qualify for the SSAC Softball Championship in a normal 9-team double-elimination format.
6.2. B. In the event that the tournament is not held: Method of determining automatic qualifiers, if applicable, and seeds in case of tie: (1) overall conference record, (2) head to head, (3) record against teams from top to bottom, (4) final rating of conference ranking prior to conference tournament. When more than two teams are tied, the top seeded team is determined using the above criteria. For the remaining tied teams the tiebreaker criteria is re-utilized including the remaining teams.
6.2. C. If the tournament cannot be completed through the Monday following tournament weekend due to weather, the highest-seeded undefeated team remaining in the tournament is the recipient of the automatic bid. The highest-seeded undefeated team will be deemed the conference tournament champion. If the tournament cannot be played at all, the automatic bid will go to the regular season champion.
6.2. D. The higher seed will be the home team throughout the tournament and will have their choice of dugout.
6.2. E. The SSAC tournament champion receives the automatic bid to the NAIA Softball National Championship.
6.2. F. NCAA rules
6.2. G. No tiebreaker shall be used during the conference tournament.
6.3. Site
6.3. A. All teams will play at one pre-determined tournament site. The 2020 tournament will be held at the Wilson Morgan Softball Complex in Decatur, Ala.
6.3. B. The tournament will be held at a facility that has multiple fields and tarps available.

Article 7 — Awards

7.1. Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, Newcomer of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year
7.1. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches.
7.1. B. Plaques awarded.
7.2. Regular Season Champion
7.2. A. The team that wins the most games during the regular-season is considered the SSAC regular-season champion.
7.2. B. Champion and runner-up plaques awarded.
7.3. Tournament/All-Tournament Team
7.3. A. The team that wins the SSAC tournament will receive the automatic bid to the NAIA Softball National Championship.
7.3. B. Champion and runner-up plaques awarded.
7.3. C. Tournament Most Valuable Player and nine-member All-Tournament Team selected by a vote of SSAC and conference championship staff.
7.3. D. Plaque award to Tournament Most Valuable Player, certificates awarded to All-Tournament Team.

7.4. All-Conference Teams/All-Freshman Team/Gold Glove Team
7.4. A. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Conference Team of 40 members shall be comprised of a First Team (20) and a Second Team (20). Voting will be done overall.
7.4. B. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. All-Freshman Team of 9 members.
7.4. C. Selected at the end of the regular season by a vote of all coaches. Gold Glove Team of 9 members.
7.4. D. Plaques awarded to the All-Conference First Team and Gold Glove Team. Certificates awarded to All-Conference Second Team and All-Freshman Team.

7.5. All-Academic Team
7.5. A. All SSAC softball players who have a cumulative 3.25 GPA or better at the conclusion of the previous fall semester, are at least sophomores, and complete the season of play shall be members of the SSAC All-Academic Team.
7.5. B. Certificates awarded.

7.6. Champions of Character
7.6. A. A representative from each conference institution will be named to the Champions of Character Team. The recipient will be selected by the school’s coach.
7.6. B. Certificates awarded

7.7. Player of the Week - A Player of the Week and Pitcher of the Week will be selected and released each week. Each institution’s SID or designee may nominate one eligible candidate per week and may vote for one candidate per week in each category. The SSAC Assistant Commissioner will select the weekly recipients and submit the winners to the NAIA for national consideration.

Article 8 — Amendments to Operating Policies

8.1. All recommended amendments must be in the annual report of the softball committee submitted at the SSAC Annual Meetings to the Board of Athletic Directors. Amendments will be for the following year’s season of play.

Article 9 — Publicity

9.1. All weekly game/match/meet results shall be reported to the conference website within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH or sooner.
9.2. Home team must single-game sync or email game files within two hours of completion of a game or second game of a DH. Must communicate with visiting SID if issues will prevent this from happening.
9.3. The host institution is responsible for posting the game results on the conference website.

Article 10 — Protocol

10.1. All teams will exercise a hospitable attitude in treating visiting teams as guests and in the manner that they would want to be treated.
10.2. All host institutions shall provide cups, water, ice, an athletic trainer, umpires, and official game balls.
10.3. Each host institution shall be responsible for field maintenance between games, at least raking the highly used areas of the field.

Article 11 — Practice Schedule

11.1. In-season and out of season - determined by institutional rules, conference rules and the NAIA.

Article 12 — Uniforms

12.1. If possible, home teams wear light colored uniforms and visiting teams wear dark colored uniforms. If teams have only one colored uniform then those uniforms will be the ones worn for that competition.
Article 13 — Balls

13.1. Rawlings is the official softball of the NAIA and shall be used in all conference games.

Article 14 — Inclement Weather/Postponed Games

14.1. The window to play the conference games will be Thursday-Sunday and any changes must involve each school’s coaches and AD’s, along with the conference commissioner. Teams need to get at least three of the four games in.

14.2. Maximum of three games can be played in one day. The latest you can start an altered game is 5 p.m. daylight savings time with no lights or 7 p.m. with lights.

14.3. Halted Games

14.3. A. If the game is halted due to darkness or weather for the day, the game will be resumed where it was halted. (Make note of the score, inning, outs, runners, count, batter, etc.). If a halted game that is not official (4 ½ innings or 5 complete innings with home team ahead) and the game cannot be continued for hardships, the Commissioner can rule the game as complete and official. If the game has not reached (4 ½ innings with the home team ahead) and a hardship exists, the commissioner can rule this game as a no contest. Hardships can be defined as travel issues, etc.

Article 15 — Eligibility

15.1. All SSAC and NAIA rules and regulations are applicable for all participants.

Article 16 — Miscellaneous

16.1. The regular-season champion shall be the conference champion and earn the maximum number of points toward the SSAC Commissioner’s Cup. The other institutions shall receive points based on their finish in the regular-season standings.

16.2. Wherever applicable, policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of NAIA postseason competition shall be utilized.