

SECTION 1. TITLE

A. South Atlantic Conference Football Committee.

SECTION 2. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The committee shall be comprised of the head football coach of each member institution. Each head coach shall have one vote. The Football Committee shall be a recommending body to the Athletic Directors Council regarding football matters.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING POLICIES

All recommended amendments must be included in the annual report of the Football Committee and submitted to the Athletic Director liaison for football and the South Atlantic Conference office no later than May 1.

The Athletic Directors Council will act on all football recommendations during its June meeting.

SECTION 4. OFFICERS

A. **Status and Term of Office**

1. The Football Committee shall be chaired by a head football coach. The chair must have been a head coach in the conference for two (2) years before accepting the role. (October 2005).
2. The chair term shall be two (2) years and will rotate by institutional alphabetical order. A coach has the option of passing their term as the committee chair to the next eligible coach.

B. **Duties**

The chair shall preside over the annual meeting of the Football Committee and report all recommendations in the proper written format to the Athletic Directors Council via the Athletic Director Liaison for the Football Committee. A copy of the report shall also be submitted to the SAC Commissioner no later than May 1.

SECTION 5. MEETING AND QUORUM

A. **Date and Site**

1. The committee will meet annually in the spring during each academic year. The meeting will be in person or via conference call at a date and site determined by the chair, Athletic Director Liaison and Conference office.

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2. All head coaches (or designee) are required to attend or participate in (via conference call) the annual coaches' meeting. Failure to be in attendance or participate (via conference call) will result in the loss of the ability to vote on any issue discussed during the meeting. Failure to be in attendance or participate (via conference call) for two (2) consecutive meetings will result in a financial penalty.
3. Additional meetings and/or conference calls may be arranged, as needed.

B. Quorum

A majority of all conference college representatives present constitutes a quorum. Five (5) votes are necessary to recommend change in policies or procedures.

SECTION 6. GENERAL PROTOCOL

A. Host Obligations

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.
2. The home team will be responsible for providing the following for the visiting team:
 - a. The best available dressing/locker room and halftime accommodations, which include restroom and shower facilities (soap and towels are the responsibility of the visiting team);
 - b. A key (or security guard) for the dressing/locker room;
 - c. Sufficient coolers, ice, water and cups on the sideline and in the dressing/locker room;
 - d. Four (4) cases of soft/sport drinks to be used at halftime or at the conclusion of the game, and;
 - e. Sufficient chairs/benches and tables on the sideline.
3. The visiting team will be responsible for providing the following:
 - a. Its own headphone system;
 - b. Its own pregame and postgame meal arrangements; and
 - c. Its own heating/cooling units.

B. Game Management

The home team shall be responsible for the following game management items. The training of certain personnel (when applicable) shall also be the responsibility of the home team.

- a. Sufficient parking for busses and support vans;
- b. A game itinerary including pregame and halftime activities;
- c. Appropriate sideline security;
- d. Emergency medical technician and ambulance on call (preferably on site) throughout the game;

- e. Stretcher, backboard, crutches, splints and cart;
- f. First down chain, marker and chain crew; and
- g. A minimum of two (2) ball persons on both sidelines for the visiting team. The visiting team may bring their own ball persons, but must notify the home team in advance. [Amended April 2019]

C. **Tobacco Ban**

The use of all tobacco products by student-athletes and game personnel (e.g. coaches, officials, athletic trainers, managers) is prohibited at the competition site, as well as at Conference activities such as banquets, autograph sessions, press conferences and post round interviews

Violation of this ban will result in disqualification of the offending individual and the head coach for the remainder of the event. Officials are instructed to take a zero tolerance policy in this area.

SECTION 7. REGULAR SEASON CONFERENCE PLAY

These regulations are intended to supplement NCAA rules and regulations as prescribed in Bylaw 17 of the NCAA Division II Manual as well as the most current edition of the NCAA Football Playing Rules.

A. **General Rules and Regulations**

1. All Conference games will be played according to the most current NCAA Football Rules and Regulations publication.
2. The field of play and sidelines must conform to the dimensions and markings outlined in the most current NCAA Football Rules and Regulations publication.
3. The home team shall wear dark colored jerseys and the visiting team shall wear light colored jerseys.
4. The home team shall provide a minimum of four (4) game balls during normal conditions and a minimum of six (6) game balls during inclement weather. The visiting team has the option of using its own balls when on offense.
5. One hour prior to the start of the game, the warm-up area will be formatted in an 'L-shape' with the long side on the side of each team's bench. The end zones are to be determined by the home team. Kickers are permitted to use the other half of the field to warm-up until 60 minutes prior to the start of the game.
6. No complimentary tickets will be provided to the visiting team for any Conference game.
7. The following crowd control statement shall be read prior to all Conference games:

“The South Atlantic Conference and NCAA encourage and promote good

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sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or ethnic comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the stadium. Further, the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.”

8. Only university owned or sponsored drones will be allowed to fly over the stadium playing enclosure on game day, and then only until the winner of the coin toss is determined. The flying of drones inside the playing enclosure will be restricted from the time of the pregame toss and until time has expired for the first half of playing time. University sponsored drones may be used from the end of the second period until the 5:00 mark of the halftime intermission. University drones will again be restricted from this point until the completion of the game (including any extra periods needed). No other drones will be allowed within the stadium enclosure on game day. [September 2014]

B. Media Timeout Protocol [March 2018]

1. During all Conference regular-season games, one (1) media timeout shall occur during each quarter.
2. Each institution is responsible for securing a Sideline Timeout Coordinator (i.e. Red Hat). The Red Hat should report at least 75 minutes prior to kickoff time and report to the official’s locker room for a brief discussion on signals and coordination of duties. The host institution shall also be responsible for arranging compensation for the Red Hat and that shall NOT be paid through the SAC office.
3. The length of each media timeout shall be 90 seconds. The Red Hat should notify the referee at the 60- and 75-second mark and then count down the last five (5) seconds to 90. The referee shall notify both teams after 90 seconds. Five (5) seconds after the referee’s notification, the ball shall be ready for play; therefore, starting the 25-second play clock.
4. The media timeout will be taken at the first approved opportunity of each quarter at the discretion of the head referee. Each team should have a possession before the first approved opportunity should occur (unless there is a score). Approved opportunities for media timeouts are following a PAT, field goal, punt or safety. Turnovers, blocked kicks, punts resulting in the receiving team taking the ball on the opponent’s half of the field or possessions ending on downs are not opportunities for media timeouts. In the event a media timeout is not taken during a quarter, it shall not carry over to succeeding quarters.
5. The media timeouts are not to be replaced by any other timeouts and may not be shortened even if both teams are ready to play prior to the end of the 90 seconds.

C. Extra Periods

If a game is tied at the conclusion of the fourth quarter, the NCAA tiebreaker system as

described in the most current edition of the NCAA Football Playing Rules shall be used.

D. **Regular Season Schedule**

1. The Conference office will develop the regular season schedule.
2. Each institution shall play all other Conference members at least once during the regular season.
3. The total allowable number of regular season games is 11.
4. Sites for the contests alternate home/away over a two-year period.
5. If two teams are scheduled to play more than once, the first scheduled game shall be designated as the Conference game.
6. All Conference games must be completed by the Saturday preceding the start of the NCAA Division II Football Playoffs.

E. **Delayed/Postponed, Suspended Game and Rescheduling Policy**

1. For all Conference games, up to 60 minutes prior to the kick-off the decision to delay the start of or postpone the game shall rest with the host institution's administration and in consultation with the administration of the visiting team and the Commissioner.
2. The officials' jurisdiction begins 60 minutes before the scheduled kick-off and ends when the referee determines the score to be final.
3. Subsequent to the start of the game, if the officials declare the game suspended due to inclement weather and/or unplayable field conditions, the following procedures shall be followed:
 - a. If fewer than three (3) quarters have been completed, the game will be resumed as soon as possible on the same day, conditions permitting. Games that must be postponed to another day shall not start any later than the originally scheduled kick-off time, unless mutually agreed upon by both institutions.
 - b. If a game is suspended after the completion of the third quarter and cannot be resumed on the same day, the game shall be declared complete for the purpose of Conference standings.
 - c. If the game is tied at the end of the third quarter and cannot be resumed on the same day, the game will be resumed the next day, conditions permitting.
 - d. In the event that the game cannot be resumed the next day, a decision to postpone the game to a weekday or cancel the game should be made by the Athletic Directors of both institutions and the Commissioner. Every reasonable effort will be made to

play the game on its scheduled day or the next day.

4. A Conference game that is cancelled due to inclement weather or circumstances beyond the control of the participating institutions must be rescheduled at the first available date, as determined by mutual consent of the institutions involved. If the involved institutions are unable to agree on a rescheduled date, then the Conference office shall select the date. [July 1999]
5. The rescheduling of a Conference game shall take precedence over a non-conference game.
6. If a Conference game cannot be played as scheduled and the Conference office, in consultation with the involved institutions, determines that the game cannot be rescheduled, then the game will be considered no contest and will not count as a win or a loss for either team.

In such a situation, the final regular-season standings shall be determined by the number of Conference losses. Any resulting ties will be broken based on the head-to-head results of the tied teams.

7. The Directors of Athletics may mutually consent to change the site of a Conference game due to unplayable conditions at the scheduled home site.
 - a. The originally scheduled home team is responsible for notifying the visiting team and the officials regarding the change.
 - b. The originally scheduled home team will continue to be the designated home team for purposes of scoring and uniform color. The host institution may use its regular bench.
 - c. The site change will not affect the following year's schedule.

F. Film Exchange

1. All Conference members must use the Hudl system for the purpose of the Conference film exchange policy. A complete copy of the South Atlantic Conference Film Exchange Policy will be provided to each head coach and Athletic Director prior to the start of the season and may also be obtained from the Conference office at any time. [Amended April 2015]
2. All Conference members are responsible for capturing and uploading each of its home and non-conference away games onto the Hudl website. [Amended April 2015]
3. All non-conference away games shall be uploaded as soon as reasonably possible upon the team's return to campus from the road trip.
4. All home day games shall be uploaded by midnight of the same day. [June 2010]
5. All home night games shall be uploaded by 6:00 a.m. the following day. [June 2010]

6. When two conference teams are competing against one another, the home team is responsible for capturing and uploading the game film. The visiting team may film the game if it wishes, but the home team is responsible for uploading the game to the Game Tape Exchange website. The home team shall provide the visiting team with a covered filming area with access to power and space for two cameras. [June 2010]
7. All Conference game officials are granted access to Hudl for purposes of reviewing game film. [Amended April 2015]

G. **Officials**

1. All officials for Conference regular season and nonconference home games will be assigned by the SAC Coordinator of Football Officials.
2. Halftime Video Review – First Half Targeting Penalties [April 2017]:
 - a. Each institution shall designate one ‘SAC Replay Official’ in charge of video for halftime reviews. This individual will be introduced to the Head Referee during a pre-game meeting. During this meeting, the ‘SAC Replay Official’ should ensure the equipment is working properly and answer any questions the Referee may have. Designation of the ‘SAC Replay Official’ shall be left up to the host institution’s Director of Athletics.
 - b. Coach’s video (both the wide-angle sideline shot and tight end-zone shot) of all targeting penalties will be used, at a minimum, for halftime reviews. Any available media may be also used if accessible per the time limit explained in section (d) below. The host institution will provide a compatible viewing device (e.g. a laptop or monitor) in the officials’ locker room. [Amended April 2019]
 - c. When a targeting penalty is called during the first half, the ‘SAC Replay Official’ will mark the actual time (e.g. 3:42 p.m.) and game time (e.g. 08:33, 2nd Quarter) of the penalty.
 - d. The ‘SAC Replay Official’ shall deliver the video to the officials’ locker room within the first five minutes of halftime for their review. The ‘SAC Replay Official’ must exit the officials’ locker room while the video is being viewed, but remain just outside the locker room in the event the officials require technical assistance.
 - e. The Referee will conduct the review under the fundamental assumption of Instant Replay. The ruling on the field is correct and may be reversed only on the basis of indisputable video evidence. The decision of the Referee is final and may not be appealed.
 - f. Upon arriving at a decision, the Referee will inform each head coach of the outcome of the review. Prior to the second-half kickoff, the Referee will announce to the stadium the outcome of the review.
3. Coaches, student-athletes and institutional representatives are prohibited from making public comments about officials.

H. **Publicity**

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1. Game results and statistics shall be reported to the Conference office no later than Sunday afternoon each week. Defensive statistics shall be reported to the Conference office each Monday following film review. The Conference office will prepare and post on its website a weekly release providing results, standings, statistics and award winners.
2. A Preseason Poll will be determined by a vote of the head football coaches and released to the public approximately one month prior to the start of the regular season. Coaches may not vote for their own team. [Amended June 2012]
3. A First-Team and Second-Team Offense and Defense Preseason All-Conference shall be selected by the Conference sports information directors and released to the public at the same time as the Preseason Poll.

I. **Regular Season Champion**

1. The regular season champion will be the team with the highest winning percentage based on games against Conference opponents and shall be declared the Conference champion.
2. Any tie for the regular season champion will not be broken. In the case of a tie, co-champions shall be named.

SECTION 8. POSTSEASON PARTICIPATION

Selection to participate in the NCAA Division II playoffs is based upon the decision of the Division II Football Committee per a recommendation from the Super Region 2 Advisory Committee. There is no automatic qualification in the sport of Division II football; therefore, the Conference champion is not guaranteed selection to the NCAA Division II playoffs.

SECTION 9. AWARDS

A. **Players of the Year**

1. The Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year shall be selected by a vote of the head football coaches at the conclusion of the regular season. Coaches may not vote for their own players.
2. The winners will be awarded a trophy.

B. **Freshmen of the Year**

1. The Offensive and Defensive Freshmen of the Year shall be selected by a vote of the head football coaches at the conclusion of the regular season. Only those student-athletes participating in their first year of intercollegiate competition within their first two years of full-time enrollment are eligible for the award. [Amended April 2015] Coaches may not vote for their own player(s).

2. The winners will be awarded a plaque.

C. **Coach of the Year**

1. The Football Coach of the Year shall be selected by a vote of the football coaches at the conclusion of the regular season. Coaches may not vote for themselves.
2. The winner will be awarded a plaque.

D. **Regular Season Champion**

1. The regular season champion will be determined the Conference champion and will be awarded a trophy. In addition, each member of the Conference champion team will be awarded a personalized certificate.
2. The Conference Champion will earn 100 points toward the Echols Athletic Excellence Award. The remaining places shall be awarded points per the chart in Article XV, Item E of the SAC Bylaws. [Amended November 2015]

E. **All-Conference Teams**

1. A sixteen (16) person First-Team Offense All-Conference team and a sixteen (16) person Second-Team Offense All-Conference team shall be selected by the head football coaches at the conclusion of the regular season.

Each team shall be comprised of one (1) quarterback, three (3) running backs, three (3) wide receivers, five (5) offensive linemen, one (1) tight end, one (1) long snapper, one (1) punter and one (1) placekicker. Winners will be selected by position. A student-athlete may be nominated for more than one position.

2. A thirteen (13) person First-Team Defense All-Conference and a thirteen (13) person Second-Team Defense All-Conference shall be selected by the head football coaches at the conclusion of the regular season.

Each team shall be comprised of four (4) defensive linemen, four (4) linebackers, four (4) defensive backs and one (1) return specialist. Winners will be selected by position. A student-athlete may be nominated for more than one position.

3. In the event of ties, the number of individuals on the first and second team may be adjusted.
4. Coaches may not vote for their own player(s) and must vote for every position.
5. First and Second Team winners will be awarded a plaque. [Amended 2016]

F. **Jacobs Blocking Trophy**

1. The winner of the Jacobs Blocking Trophy shall be the top interior lineman or blocking

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back selected by a vote of the head football coaches at the conclusion of the regular season. Coaches may not vote for their own players.

2. The award is named in honor of William P. Jacobs, the founder and president of Presbyterian College from 1935 to 1945. The trophy is awarded by a member of the Jacobs family.
3. The winner will be awarded a plaque or trophy by the Jacobs family.

H. **SAC Honor Roll**

All South Atlantic Conference football student-athletes who have a cumulative 3.30 (June 2010) or better GPA at the conclusion of the spring semester shall be named to the SAC Academic Honor Roll.

I. **SAC Athlete of the Year Award**

1. The Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year shall be considered nominees for the SAC Athlete-of-the-Year Award. No other football student-athletes shall be nominated as Athlete of the Year. [Amended 2013]
2. The Conference Athletic Directors will select one male and one female student-athlete as Athlete of the Year. The Athletic Directors may vote for their own student-athlete(s).
3. The winners will be awarded a personalized plaque.

J. **SAC Scholar-Athlete Award**

1. Each institution may nominate one student-athlete per sport for each sport-specific Scholar-Athlete award.
2. Nominees for the Scholar-Athlete must meet the following criteria:
 - a. A minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA
 - b. Be of sophomore status, at minimum
 - c. Excel in academics, athletics and community/leadership activities.
3. Each sport in which the Conference awards a team champions will have one winner. The sport-specific winners shall be selected by the Faculty Athletic Representatives Committee at the end of each sport season. [June 2009]
4. The winners will be awarded a plaque.

K. **Elite 20**

1. The Elite 20 award will be presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating on the team that wins the SAC Championship. [April 2016]

2. A tie (including if there are Co-Champions) will be broken by the number credit hours the student-athlete has completed.
3. The winner will be awarded a trophy.

L. **SAC Presidents Award**

1. Only student-athletes that have won a sport-specific Scholar-Athlete award during the same academic year are eligible for the Presidents' Award.
2. Institutions may nominate one male and one female sport specific Scholar-Athlete award winners for the Presidents' Award. The nominees must be of junior status, at minimum and it is expected that the nominees will represent a superior level of academic, athletic, and community/leadership qualities.
3. The Faculty Athletic Representatives Committee shall select one male and one female winner at the end of the academic year.
4. The winners will be awarded a personalized plaque.

M. **SAC Senior Participation Award**

All football student-athletes competing in their final season of eligibility will receive a senior memento award sponsored by the Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. [July 2004] A student-athlete shall have competed in the sport of football at a SAC institution for a minimum of two years in order to be eligible to receive the senior award. [June 2012]

N. **SAC Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week**

1. Each week of the regular season, the Conference office shall select an Offensive, Defensive and Special Teams Player of the Week. The winners will be chosen from the nominees received from the member institutions. [October 2009]
2. Nominations are due by Monday at 10:00 a.m. and the winners are selected by 12:00 noon the same day.
3. Players of the Week winners will be announced as part of the weekly sport report and will be awarded a personalized certificate. [Revised 2004]

O. **Statistical Champions**

1. The football Statistical Champions will be the leaders in each of the following statistical categories at the conclusion of the regular season:
 - a. Rushing Yards Per Game
 - b. Passing Yards Per Game
 - c. Total Offense Per Game
 - d. Receptions Per Game
 - e. Receiving Yards Per Game

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- f. All-Purpose Yards Per Game
- g. Passing Efficiency Rating
- h. Punt Return Average
- i. Kick Return Average

- j. Punting Average
- k. Scoring Average (TDs)
- l. Scoring Average (Kicking)
- m. Field Goals Per Game
- n. Field Goal Percentage
- o. Tackles Per Game

- p. Sacks Per Game
- q. Tackles For Loss Per Game
- r. Interceptions Per Game
- s. Team Scoring Offense
- t. Team Scoring Defense
- u. Team Passing Offense
- v. Team Passing Defense
- w. Team Rushing Offense
- x. Team Rushing Defense
- y. Team Total Offense
- z. Team Total Defense

2. Each winner will be awarded a personalized certificate.