SOUTHEASTERN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE BY-LAWS

**The mission of the SECC is to organize, promote, and encourage Christian athletic competition**

**and fellowship between member Christian schools.**

***Revised & Adopted – July 19, 2023***

BYLAW, ARTICLE I - **NAME**

# Name

* 1. This Conference shall be known as the **Southeastern Christian Conference** (SECC), a non-profit, voluntary association.

BYLAW, ARTICLE II - **MISSION**

# Mission

* 1. The mission of the SECC is to organize, promote, and encourage Christian athletic competition and fellowship between member Christian schools.

BYLAW, ARTICLE III - **MEMBERSHIP**

# Membership

* 1. Membership in the SECC is limited to Christian schools operating under the authority and control of a Bible-believing church that has signed the Membership Application (which includes the SECC statement of Faith), and voted in by 75% of the member schools. The decision to accept or deny any application is at the sole discretion of the SECC member schools.
		1. **Amendment-** Membership in the SECC is limited to Christian **schools’ operating under the authority**

**and control of a Bible-believing church or if independent of a church the school must have a pastor of a church on the school board who is given responsibility for the spiritual direction of the school that has signed the Membership Application.** (which includes the SECC statement of Faith), and voted in by 75% of the member schools. The decision to accept or deny any application is at the sole discretion of the SECC member schools.

# School Eligibility

* 1. Any Christian school that meets the membership criteria is eligible to apply for membership in the SECC. Home school groups will not be able to participate, but individual home school students can participate as described in 6.1.1
	2. All membership schools and/or probationary schools are required to provide a safe playing facility and/or field for all sporting events. Indoor sports such as basketball and volleyball must only be played in an indoor gymnasium. If a school does not have an indoor gymnasium on their campus, renting/networking a local gymnasium or playing all games at the opponent’s gymnasium is an acceptable option.
	3. IF the SECC offers a particular sport a school elects to play the sport they must participate in the SECC. Schools are permitted to play out of conference games but the SECC must have priority. Failure to participate could lead to a vote to eliminate school from the SECC.- Transition period of 3 years after fall season.
	4. Eligible schools must participate in one fall and one spring sport in order to maintain their status. Any school who does not meet the required standards would move back to probationary for one year. If school could not meet the standard by the end of a second year a vote continuing to participate as an SECC school would be required. Grandfather in the schools who can only play one sport.

# Organization of Member School by District\Size

* 1. As SECC membership grows schools may be divided up into Districts. Districts may be added as needed. Also, the Conference may choose to classify schools according to size. Schools will use the number of eligible students (5th grade – 12th grade) to determine class.

# Application for Membership

* 1. A prospective new member school must submit an application for membership, which includes:
		1. A signed copy of the SECC Statement of Faith.
		2. A copy of the applying school’s church Statement of Faith.
		3. A copy of the applying school’s Handbook.
		4. A check for the non-refundable application fee of $50.

All should be sent to the Conference President no later than July 1st, to participate in flag football,

volleyball, and\or cross country, October 1st for basketball, and January 1st for baseball, softball and\or

soccer. All parts of the membership application can be mailed or emailed to the following address:

Peter Smith SECC President

Open Bible Christian School

3992 N. Oak St. Ext., Valdosta, GA 31605

 seccpresident@gmail.com or admsmith@bellsouth.net

Nicole Kinsey SECC Vice-President

4070 SW Mosley Hall Rd, Greenville, FL 32331

kinseyju@hotmail.com

**4.1 Amendment**- All applications for membership should be mailed to the East or West

Director.

East Director - cribb\_d@bellsouth.net

 Don Cribb – Southside Christian School 3439 Knight Avenue, Waycross, GA 31503

West Director – donaldtaylor@gainesvilleccs.org

Donald Taylor- Gainesville Community Christian School, Gainesville, FL

* 1. Where deadline dates fall on Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the deadline shall be the next day

which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

* 1. When a new school applies for membership to the SECC, the $50 application fee may be passed along as a referral honorarium to an individual if: 1) the applying school cites that individual as instrumental in their decision to apply; 2) if this individual is a representative of an SECC school; and 3) the applying school is accepted to the SECC as a probationary school.

# Acceptance and Probation

* 1. After the SECC Board and member schools have reviewed the membership application, the appropriate director will coordinate a conference and\or visit with the prospective new member school. The Athletic Director and\or Principal should be present at this meeting. Upon completion, the applying school’s leadership should attend the next scheduled Conference meeting and answer any questions from voting member schools. The applying school will then be dismissed and the voting member schools shall vote. If the prospective school receives the required 75% vote of the member schools the application for probationary status will be granted. The decision to accept or deny any application is at the sole discretion of the SECC member schools. Once voted in, the accepted school shall be on probation for one year from the date of acceptance. The start date of the probationary year will be begin with the first sport played, regardless of the date the school was admitted as a probationary school. **Probationary schools are not permitted to vote or to host Jamborees or SECC Championship Tournaments during the course of their probationary year.**
	2. After completion of the one-year probationary period, the probationary school will be reviewed by voting member schools and President. Voting member schools shall vote to determine probationary school’s status, thus becoming a voting member, having the probationary period extended for up to one year, or being disqualified from future SECC membership and participation. Schools disqualified may reapply in June after two full school years. A 75% vote by the member schools is required for full membership in the SECC.

# Obligations of Membership

* 1. By signing the membership application, each pastor and administrator bind themselves and their school (students, staff, faculty, and coaches) to abide by the standards of conduct, dress and Christian sportsmanship as defined by SECC By-laws. In addition, each pastor and administrator agree to instruct their parents, coaches, staff, faculty, students, and fans by “making it clear” what the specific standards are, how they will be enforced, and consequences for their violation.
	2. Member schools must send a representative from their school to all SECC scheduled meetings. If a representative cannot attend a scheduled SECC meeting, notification must be communicated to the SECC President and/or to the appropriate SECC Division Director prior to the scheduled meeting.

Representatives are expected to have the authority to speak for and\or vote on matters pertaining to their school. Although more than one representative from each school may be present at Conference\District meetings, only one representative per school may be counted as a vote.

# Termination of Membership

* 1. Any SECC member or probationary school who does not participate in at least one sport during a regular school year (August – May) shall be automatically terminated from membership and must re- apply for membership in the SECC. SECC Member schools who are unable to field a team will be given a one-year grace period provided they meet both of the following conditions: 1) They have paid their $200 annual membership dues, and 2) Students from their school participate with another SECC athletics team for at least one sport. After this one-year grace period, if the school is unable to field a team and participate in at least one sport, that school will lose their membership status. The school must then re-apply for membership to the SECC when they are able to participate.

Any SECC member or probationary school who fails to uphold the SECC standards of conduct, dress, and Christian sportsmanship shall be disciplined and\or disqualified according to the procedures set forth in SECC By-laws. A member or probationary school can be dismissed at any part of the year or season following a meeting and a vote of 75% of the member schools. Consideration of dismissal will be announced as an agenda item before the meeting.

# Standards of Conduct

* 1. Everything a Christian does is to glorify and honor the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17, Matthew 5:16). Therefore, Christian coaches, players, parents, and spectators should conduct themselves accordingly. Christian athletic competition can be a means of training in character, discipline and teamwork. However, if allowed, it can become a battlefield where bitterness, hatred, pride and selfishness are displayed. Therefore, the SECC prohibits unchristian conduct including but not limited to threatening, harassing, or intimidating others; fighting and\or assaulting others; vandalizing, defacing, or purposely littering property; cursing, using vulgarity, or obscenity in gestures or language; lewd or indecent behavior; complaining and\or murmuring about standards or authorities; belittling or mocking others; spitting on a contest official or opponent, directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official or opponent, purposely running up the score on opponents or other such acts which may be deemed as unacceptable conduct.
	2. As members of the SECC, all principals, athletic directors, coaches and athletic staff commit themselves to familiarize themselves with the Bylaws of the SECC regularly (annually at a minimum). The leaders of each member school are expected to model and educate their parents, coaches, students, and fans concerning SECC standards, policies, and procedures each year.
	3. The SECC reserves the right to invoke one or more penalties against a member or probationary school and\or individuals whose conduct violates these prohibitions. Up to and including fines levied against the school, suspension of participation in Conference functions and dismissal from the SECC.
	4. Scripture reminds us to bear with one another in love. While we are expected to abide by these By- laws, everyone, students, coaches, staff and spectators need to remember that all of us are human, often with many roles and hats to wear, or perhaps unpaid volunteers. Patience, gentleness, forgiveness and Christian love need to be on display, particularly in times or tension and conflict.

# General Dress & Grooming Standards (Male & Female)

* 1. All students and staff of member or probationary schools desiring to participate in SECC activities must conform to the SECC dress and grooming standards. If a dress code, team uniform or a grooming violation is noticed during a SECC sporting event, SECC member schools are expected to immediately communicate with one another in a Christ-like manner and agree upon a reasonable solution. Failure to comply with SECC dress and grooming standards will result in disciplinary action.
	2. No jewelry may be worn by players during SECC sporting events unless NFHS rules state otherwise. No body piercings are allowed on players. Existing tattoos on players must be covered and cover must be same as uniforms dominant color.

# Male Dress & Grooming Standards

* 1. Male students and coaches must follow their school’s standards for dress and grooming.
	2. Male students participating in baseball must wear full-length baseball pants. No shorts. Sleeveless shirts will not be allowed. Jerseys may not be tank top or open mesh. Jerseys must be below the waist and remain tucked in. Easily visible numbers must be on the front (4”) and back (6”) of the jersey. Team uniforms (jersey\shirt, pants, caps must match. Batting gloves may be worn in baseball. Metal or rubber cleats may be worn.

**9.2.1 Amendment**- If you wear metal cleats you must communicate with the other team. They are not

 allowed on the temporary pitching mounds.

* 1. Male students participating in basketball must have shorts with a minimum of a seven-inch inseam.

Shorts must not be rolled (Exception: adjustment needed due to uniform deficiencies). Jersey numbers may not have a 6, 7, 8, or 9 in them. Teams should be in uniform; that is, have the same jerseys and shorts. Jerseys may be sleeveless. If tank tops are worn, a t-shirt of the dominant color of the uniform must be worn underneath it. Number size of 4” in front and 6” in back must be visible and easily recognizable. Home teams should wear white\light colored uniforms. Teams without home\away uniforms should communicate before games to insure jerseys are of contrasting colors to avoid confusion.

* 1. In flag football, pants and flags must contrast in color. Easily visible numbers must be on the front and back of the jersey. 4” in front and 6” in back. Football players must wear football pants or baseball pants that do not have pockets. If the pants were made with pockets, they must be completely sewn shut, so as to avoid injury. No shorts allowed. Team uniforms (jersey\shirt and pants) must match. Players may not have towels stuck in their belt and\or pants for hand cleaning. Players may not wear any protective pads. A player with a minor injury may wear a soft protective bandage over the injury but not to cover any hard or plastic cast as long as no blood is involved. Any protective bandage or padding must be approved by the officials, preferably before the game begins.
	2. In cross country, shorts must come to the top of the knee. Jerseys may be sleeveless but must come to the end of the shoulder and should fit snuggly under the armpit. The mid-drift may not be shown. If tank tops are worn, a t-shirt must be worn underneath.
	3. In soccer, shorts must come to the top of the knee. Easily visible numbers must be on the front and back of the jersey. 4” in front and 6” in back. Metal cleats may not be worn. Shin guards are required for all players. Metal cleats may not be worn.
	4. Male coaches may wear shorts while coaching.
	5. After playing, male students\coaches cannot change into clothes that violate minimal standards of modesty

# Female Dress & Grooming Standards

* 1. Female students and coaches must students and coaches must follow their school’s standards for dress and grooming. Hard hair bands, clips or barrettes (metal or plastic) should not be worn by players during a game\match unless allowed by NHFS rules.
	2. Female contestants, cheerleaders, and coaches may wear loose-fitting shorts and tops. Female students participating in athletics must have shorts with a minimum of a seven-inch inseam. Shorts must not be rolled or folded over (Exception: adjustment needed due to uniform size deficiencies).Team uniforms should consist of jerseys\shirts and shorts\softball pants, that match. Accessories such as wristbands or headbands must coordinate with the team uniform. Shirts\jerseys can be sleeveless. Shirt\Jersey must fit properly under the arm. If undergarments show when lifting arms, player must wear a t-shirt (the same color as shirt\jersey). No tank tops allowed. Females may wear softball pants, shorts or culottes for softball. Metal cleats may be worn for softball, not for soccer.
	3. Female jerseys must be properly numbered for volleyball (at least 2” on left shoulder and 6” on back), basketball (4” on front and 6” on back) and softball (same as basketball). They should not have excessive V-necks, or be made of thin material that would be immodest when wet. In volleyball, kneepads may be worn. Batting gloves may be worn in softball.
	4. Cheerleaders may not perform cartwheels or handstands as part of a routine. Uniforms should not be form fitting. Cheerleaders must wear knee-length skirts or slacks as part of their uniforms. Because skirts do fly up and midriffs may be exposed during cheers and stunts, cheerleaders are required to wear biker shorts (must be the same color as the skirt) and body suits while in uniform. Body suits may be sleeveless but must be modest in the neckline and around the arms. Shirts\tops may be sleeveless, but the arm opening should not extend so far below the underarm that undergarments are revealed. Appropriate tennis shoes must be worn while cheering. Flip-flops or sandals are not appropriate. Because cheerleading is a noncompetitive sport with our conference at this time, there is no age restrictions. Female coaches and students must wear loose fitting, knee-length shorts and\or

pants as appropriate.

**10.4 Amendment** – Cheerleaders may perform handstands and cartwheels as part of a routine with proper attire.

* 1. After playing, female students\coaches cannot change into clothes that violate minimal standards of modesty

BYLAW, ARTICLE IV - **GOVERNANCE**

# Governance

* 1. A Board consisting of four representatives\directors (one President, one vice-President, and two additional Directors) from the member schools will govern the Conference. These directors will be nominated and voted on by member schools to represent and lead this conference. At the end of each school year, member schools will vote whether to extend the term of each representative for the following school year or not. This will be decided by a majority vote. The vote will be done by secret ballot.
	2. At such a time of growth, that the Conference is divided into districts, District Directors will be nominated and voted on by member schools of those districts. This replaces the directors in 4.1.1
	3. SECC Officers will consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Directors, and the Secretary\Treasurer. The Secretary\ Treasurer will serve at large until member schools vote to replace them, or until they resign. In the case of a disagreement or conflict of interest in a decision required of the Board, the Board will defer the decision to the Secretary\Treasurer. SECC officers shall be from four different schools.

**1.3. Amendment** –President, Vice-President, directors, and secretary should not be from same school

 unless approved by a vote of the membership.

* 1. Duties of the Board:
1. To act as a final court of appeals in all Conference matters
2. To enforce the By-laws of the SECC
3. To determine Jamboree and Tournament fees
4. To Approve Home-school applications
5. To evaluate and make decisions concerning eligibility appeals
6. To approve tie-breaker methods
7. To determine the locations and schedules or tournaments and jamborees
8. To determine penalties for by-law violations and conduct ejections
9. To hear protests and decide appropriate actions
10. To perform other duties as may be necessary for the SECC
	1. Duties of the President:
11. Preside at all conference and Board meetings
12. Manage and direct affairs of conference’s activities
13. Forward to Secretary\Treasurer all funds received
14. Maintain records of school applications, rosters, Consent & Release from Liability forms as well as other important records
15. Inform other officers of eligibility exemption requests, unsportsmanlike conduct incidents, home- school applications, bylaw violations, protest and questions
16. Receive and initiate new member applications and acceptance procedures
17. Have general supervision of SECC jamborees, tournaments and activities – including ordering of necessary trophies, awards, etc.
18. Perform other duties as may be necessary for the SECC

 1.6 Duties of the Vice-President:

 a. Preside at all conference and Board meetings in the absence of the President

 b. Assist the President in managing and directing the affairs of conference’s activities

c. Forward to Secretary\Treasurer all funds received

d. Inform other officers of eligibility exemption requests, unsportsmanlike conduct incidents,

 home- school applications, bylaw violations, protest and questions

e. Assist the President in receiving and initiating new member applications and acceptance

 procedures

f. Assist the President with general supervision of SECC jamborees, tournaments and activities –

 including ordering of necessary trophies, awards, etc.

 g. Perform other duties as may be necessary for the SECC

1.7 Duties of Division Directors

* 1. Sit on Board of SECC
	2. Determine and inform Board of win\loss records of District teams
	3. To assist the President as needed, including any investigation of alleged violation of rules and assessment of penalties for violations
	4. To be available to all members for questions and concerns
	5. Gathers team rosters and regular season schedules from all member schools in their division
	6. Forwards rosters and regular season schedules from all member schools in their division to the

SECC President

* 1. Verifies that members in their division have paid their annual dues and participation fees
	2. Verifies that members in their division has paid their jamboree and tournament fees
	3. Collects and counts the All Conference ballots/votes from their division
	4. Forwards All Conference results from their division to the SECC President
	5. To assist in determining and running all tournament and contest schedules
	6. To perform additional duties requested by the President or Conference

1.8 Duties of Secretary\Treasurer

 a. To keep and issue a membership\contact list as of August 1 of each year, and keep members

 informed of changes in said list

 b. To announce date, time and location of conference meetings, take minutes at meetings, and

 disperse minutes of meetings

c. To supervise and record financial activities of SECC and report on these at quarterly conference

 meetings

 d. To receive and disperse funds on behalf of SECC in a timely and accountable manner.

 e. To serve as Board member when requested by President due to absence or recusal of Board

 member

 f. To update the By-laws and keep track of Special Exceptions

1.9a All officers shall have free admission to all SECC games and events. At Championship tournaments, each attending officer shall receive compensation for two nights in a reasonably priced hotel, reimbursement for gasoline, a $20 a day per diem, and divide among themselves $400 gratuity ($100 each) for time and expenses incurred in dispatching their duties. At Jamborees, officers will receive reimbursement for gasoline and $10 per diem.

1.9b SECC Awards Coordinator (Additional Duty Volunteer from SECC Member school)

a. Coordinates with SECC Finance Officer to purchase all SECC awards

b. Orders all SECC awards for the entire year

c. Picks up all SECC awards and ensures awards are in-place for recognition

d. Ensures the SECC Finance Officer receives receipts for official files/records

e. Updates the SECC Awards document for continuity/place on SECC webpage

# Conference Meetings

* 1. All SECC meetings will be announced by telephone, email or in person with one week of notice given.
	2. A quorum is required for SECC meetings to be valid. Three of the four Board Members and 2/3 of the member schools must be present at the meeting to meet the quorum requirements. A school who notifies the president in writing that they will have a representative at the meeting, but does not show up, will still be counted towards the 2/3 quorum requirement.

BYLAW, ARTICLE V – **FINANCIAL STRUCTURE**

# Financial Structure

* 1. The Southeastern Christian Conference’s annual fee is $200.00 for each voting member school and

probationary school. These fees are to be paid by August 15th each school year. Checks should be made out to the Southeastern Christian Conference and mailed to the SECC Treasurer. These fees will not be prorated.

Additionally, there is a sports participation fee of $75 per team per year. This will be due at the beginning of each sport season. Schools who have not paid their sports participation fee will not be permitted to participate in the Championship Tournament or future sports seasons until this fee is brought current. Fees are subject to change. These fees are used to offset the cost of trophies, referees and other tournament costs.

* 1. Regular Season admission fees shall be no more than $8 per student and $10 per adult. The Conference Board will determine Jamboree, District or SECC Tournament fees. During the regular season, coaches and players are able to go to games without charge. Each team is limited to three unpaid coaches and one bus driver. These can be head coaches, assistant coaches, and\or statisticians. However, to offset the cost of referees, all players will be charged $1 and coaches $2 for Jamborees and SECC Playoffs. The Playoff gate fees shall be $8/students - $10 Adults - 3 yrs and under are free.
	2. Every school is encouraged to have an administrator present at each event. To encourage participation, pastors, principals, and athletic directors will be admitted to all SECC events for free.
	3. Accountability is a Scriptural principle. The Conference Treasurer is to give a financial report at each meeting so that every school may know the deposits, disbursements, and account balances.

BYLAW, ARTICLE VI - **ELIGIBILITY**

# Eligibility of Students

* 1. In order to represent a member or probationary school in any SECC athletic activity, a student must be a regularly attending student of that school. Students from an SECC sister school as well as home school students may also participate in SECC athletics as Non-Attending Students with an SECC school.
		1. **Amendment-** In order to represent a member or probationary school in any SECC athletic activity, a student must be a regularly attending student of that school. Students from an SECC sister school as well as home school student may also participate in SECC athletics as Non-Attending Students with an SECC school. Full-Time FLVA is not homeschool. **The definition of homeschool does not include students who are taking FLVS full-time or any county public virtual education option. These are public school programs that are clearly defined on their websites.** FLVS is not home school and don’t need to be added to the rosters and can’t play. Filling out homeschool when they are actually FLVS.
	2. Non-Attending Students must not participate with any other school’s athletics while participating in SECC activities. Once a non-attending student is approved for participation in the SECC, he\she will remain an approved student unless disciplinary action comes or that student wishes to play for another SECC school. In both cases, the student must reapply for approval to participate. Non-Attending Students will be eligible to participate with member schools providing they meet the following criteria:
		1. The student may not participate in any other educational organization’s athletics activities; 2) The student must fill out the SECC Non-Attending Student Application; and 3) The student’s application must be approved by the Board.
	3. A student must be a minimum age of 10 (at least grade 5) and less than age 19, 9 months to participate in

SECC activities. Exceptions: Baseball – 6th grade 11 years old) and up only. Cheerleaders, see 3.10.4 for clarification. Date used for participation is the player’s birthday. A student must not have graduated from any high school or its equivalent, nor received any type of high school diploma or its equivalent.

* 1. A student must have a signed Certificate of Liability & Release form from their parents or guardians before they may participate in SECC activities. This form must be kept on file by each member school prior to that student’s participation in any practice or games. Verification must be sent to the Conference President certifying all certificates are on file with member or probationary school. This Document Verification Form must be notarized and verify that the following information is on file with the school per sport: SECC Consent & Liability Release, physical exam form, and birth certificate. It will also include Name, DOB, and jersey number.

**1.4.1 Amendment** – Verification must be sent to East or West Director.

East Director cribb\_d@bellsouth.net

 Don Cribb – Southside Christian School 3439 Knight Avenue, Waycross, GA 31503

West Director – donaldtaylor@gainesvilleccs.org

Donald Taylor- Gainesville Community Christian School, Gainesville, FL

* 1. A student must meet academic and behavioral standards as required by their individual schools. School must require students to have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4- point scale or its academic equivalent. Schools who “bend” the rules on academic eligibility for special games or activities shall incur disciplinary action leading up to and including fines and forfeiture.
	2. Before any student is allowed to participate in any SECC activity they must have their parents complete the SECC Consent & Release Form. It is understood that participation in SECC activities is voluntary and each student assumes the risk. The SECC does not take responsibility for injuries incurred during participation in SECC activities. A student must have a physical exam (that is updated annually) before they may participate in an SECC activity.
	3. Parents, fans, etc. are free to videotape and\or photograph SECC activities without written SECC permission. No posting of SECC events on the Internet without written permission from the SECC.
		1. **Amendment-** Parents, fans, etc. are free to videotape and\or photograph SECC activities without

written SECC permission.

* 1. Schools may elect to have Middle School Teams. Only students who meet the above eligibility

requirements and have not successfully completed 8th grade may compete in Middle School Teams. Players competing on Middle School Teams may also play on the regular (Varsity) team, but not vice- versa.

**1.9.1 Amendment**- All schools must have at any game a coach’s book or thumb drive that includes the

following information: SECC Release form, Permission to treat medically, and any special

designations pertaining to students.

**1.10.1 Amendment-** All students (homeschool, sister school, current students) 8 semester rule with

exceptions about legitimate hardships ex: (injury that cause student to miss season and not be able to

participate in school, transfer student).

# Eligibility and Rosters

* 1. All SECC members and probationary schools must provide President an eligibility list consisting of all the students eligible for participating in SECC competition for the current school year. Team rosters (Document Verification Forms) are also to be submitted to the President prior to the first game of each season’s sport.
	2. A roster max has been set by the SECC. The maximum amount of Homeschool/Sister school students can be no greater than 33% of the max set. Cross Country, Volleyball, and Basketball max at 15 athletes on a roster. Baseball, Flag Football, Softball, and Soccer max at 18 athletes on a roster.
	3. Any player of an SECC member or probationary school that fails to maintain academic or behavioral eligibility will be eligible to participate in all activities once he\she has earned academic or behavioral eligibility as determined by Conference and school requirements.
	4. A student who initially enrolls in or engages in an athletic practice at one member or probationary school in a school year and transfers attendance to another member or probationary school during the same school year shall be a transfer student and subject to the bylaws related to students who transfer from one school to another. Students enrolled at a member school which does not participate in a sport may play for another school’s conference team.
	5. All transfer students must submit a letter of release from their previous school as well as a letter

\transcript, which satisfy the eligibility requirements previously scheduled. If the transfer occurs during a sports season the student may not participate in that sport. Eligibility deadline dates for transfer students not currently participating in a sport at their previous school are as follows:

Flag Football, Volleyball, & Cross Country – October 1st

Basketball – January 15th

Softball, Baseball, & Soccer April 1st.

* 1. All Rosters, SECC Forms, and eligibility documents must be submitted by the hard date proposed at each July meeting or before the first SECC game whichever comes first. Failure to submit documentation will result in forfeits until all documents have been submitted.
	2. All special exceptions regarding eligibility must be made in writing or via email to the SECC president who will respond in writing or via email the decision of the SECC Board.

BYLAW, ARTICLE VII – **SECC CHAMPIONSHIP (PLAYOFFS) *& JAMBOREES***

# Championship Tournament (Playoff)

* 1. The SECC Championship Tournament (Playoff) is held at the end of each sport season. The top four teams in each district will compete to determine the SECC Champion in each sport. Seeding will be based on District play only. The following will be the seeding for each tournament unless otherwise decided by the voting member schools.

1st Place (West) vs. 4th Place (East)

2nd Place (East) vs. 3rd Place (West)

2nd Place (West) vs. 3rd Place (East)

1st Place (East) vs. 4th Place (West)

* 1. In the event there are an insufficient number of teams for such seeding, changes may be made at the beginning of the season that will encourage athletic competition and fellowship between member schools. This may include, but is not limited to, redrawing districts for that season or requiring all schools play one another. This will be at the SECC board’s discretion.
	2. Tiebreaker: Seeding for the Championship Tournament will first be determined by district record. In the event where district records are a tie, the following will be used as a tiebreaker:
		1. Result of head-to-head games. If teams played twice and split games.
		2. Play a tiebreaker game. If playing this game is not possible.
		3. Record against common non-district SECC opponents.
		4. The SECC Board must approve any other tiebreaker method agreed upon by Athletic Directors.
	3. For Cross Country, see SECC Guidelines for Team and Individual Runner qualifications.
	4. District member schools that fail to play a minimum of 50% of their district games\meets disqualify themselves from the Championship Tournament in the specific sport. Individual students must be present, dressed and medically eligible to play at 50% of contests to be eligible for the Championship. A doctor’s note will be required to cover the eligibility requirement for the time out for injuries\illness.

1.5.1 **Amendment - District member schools that fail to play all their district games/meets will result**

 **in disqualification from the Championship Tournament in the specific sport. Any exception**

 **must be voted on the SECC Leadership Board and be handled on a case-by-case basis.**

 Individual students must be present, dressed and medically eligible to play at 50% of contests to be

 eligible for the Championship. A doctor’s note will be required to cover the eligibility requirement for

 the time out for injuries/illness.

* 1. The SECC provides a District Champion trophy, SECC Championship trophy and an SECC Runner-up trophy for each sport.
	2. The SECC will provide medallions for All Conference Team selections in varsity sports only. Each SECC member and/or probationary school that participates in a varsity sport and finished the season is authorized to forward up to two student athletes (2 boys and/or 2 girls) for All Conference that participated in that particular sport season (boys and/or girls). Athletic Director’s from each school or an assigned representative are required to forward their school’s All Conference input/selections (all, some or none) to the appropriate SECC Division Director up to two weeks before the SECC Championship Tournament for each particular sport/gender but no later than one week prior. Announcement of the SECC All-Conference Team selections will be announced prior to the SECC Championship Tournament. A SECC Recognition Presentation of the All Conference Medallions will take place on the first day of the Championship Tournament. Timing of the presentation will be determined by the SECC Board of Directors and be communicated to all SECC members to ensure advance notice has been given to attend and for planning purposes.
	3. The SECC will provide medallions for All Tournament Team selections in varsity sports only. Number of selections for the All-Tournament Teams will depend on each sport. The maximum number for each sport will be documented on the SECC Awards Document for planning purposes. All-Tournament Team selections will be announce after each SECC Championship game or the last game of the Tournament. Each SECC member and/or probationary school that participates during the tournament is encouraged to be present for the SECC Championship Awards Presentation. For those that are recognized but are not there to receive their awards, the awards will be mailed or given to a school representative. It is highly encouraged that at least one representative from each school is present during the SECC Championship Awards Presentation in order to receive an award for participating schools and/or their student athlete.
	4. The location of Championship Tournaments will be determined at the regular meeting of SECC member schools. The decision on the location of the SECC Championship Tournaments will be based on such factors as facilities, centrality to member’s schools, prior performance as a Tournament location, and standing within the SECC. In order for a school to be considered as a location for SECC Championship Tournaments, they must participate that year in the sports that they are willing to host. The field for the SECC Flag Football Championship will be 40 yards by 80 yards.
	5. Schools wishing to host a tournament or jamboree who need to rent a facility must inform the Board of all expenses (rental, security, cleaning, etc.) associated with the rental when they state their desire to host. If this location is chosen, the SECC will pay for half the estimated expense. Additional expenses over the estimated cost may be partially covered at the discretion of the Board.
	6. Teams not wishing to participate in Tournaments are classified as Fellowship Teams. The SECC Board should be notified in writing as soon as a team decides to play as a Fellowship Team. Fellowship Teams may participate in Jamborees. Other teams are encouraged to schedule Fellowship Teams during the regular season. A Fellowship Team may not change its classification after it has played its first district game. Fellowship teams are not limited by age or grade.
	7. Middle School Teams may also participate in District and Conference Tournaments. The nature of their participation is at the discretion of the SECC Board and the Conference or District.

# Jamborees

* 1. The Conference and\or Districts may choose to have a preseason Jamboree.

BYLAW, ARTICLE VIII - **SPORTSMANSHIP**

# Sportsmanship

* 1. As previously mentioned, everything a Christian does is to glorify and honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Consequently, students, coaches, administrators, spectators, and all other persons connected directly and indirectly with a member or probationary school as well as contest officials shall practice and promote the highest standards of Christian sportsmanship and ethics in all SECC activities.
	2. The disqualification of a coach, student, or other representative of a member or probationary school from an athletic contest as a result of unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject his\her school to appropriate disciplinary action. It is expected that each member or probationary school will exercise control over each individual student and coach to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants.
	3. The removal of a team or individual competitor from an athletic contest by a coach or administrator because of his\her dissatisfaction with contest officials or other conditions of the contest shall be considered an act of gross unsportsmanlike conduct.
	4. In the event of gross misbehavior or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a team or individual officially representing a member or probationary school at an SECC athletic event shall be disciplined according to the procedures set forth in SECC By-laws
	5. Although the SECC will not dictate which individual music selection is acceptable and which is not, deference should be used when playing music aloud. It is recommended that music to be played aloud be discussed beforehand by each school’s leadership. Music played aloud during cheers and cheerleading routines may not have lyrics.

**1.5.1 Amendment**- Music will be allowed as long as it is Christian or non-offensive.

* 1. Member schools are encouraged to support each other’s programs and SECC conference fellowship through prayer and socialization before and after games, purchasing each other’s concessions, and upholding each other in the community and in prayer.

# Crowd & Animal Control

* 1. The pastor, administrator and\or coaches are responsible to control the conduct of their student body, staff, and\or followers, within reasonable bounds. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary actions as set forth in SECC By-laws
	2. Pets or animals are prohibited at SECC activities. Animals that are team mascots are permitted with written permission from the SECC leadership. Individuals violating this prohibition assume all liability pertaining thereto and shall be disciplined according to SECC By-laws.

BYLAW, ARTICLE IX – **PENALTIES, PROTESTS, & FORFEITURES**

# Penalties

* 1. Any violation of the SECC By-laws as well as regulations, guidelines and policies and\or procedures shall be reported to the directors of the SECC who shall have authority to investigate all alleged

violations. The findings of the investigation shall be made known to the school (or schools), person (or persons), alleged to have committed the violation(s). The SECC officers shall, after conferring, invoke one or more of the following penalties against such school(s) or person(s) found to have committed violations:

Reprimand – An official letter of censure to the individual and\or school concerned in regard to the offense committed and warning against future act of a detrimental nature that are contrary to the aims of this Conference. This letter of reprimand becomes part of the file of the individual and

\or school involved.

Fine – A payment to be determined by the SECC.

Forfeit – The forfeiture of one or more SECC athletic contests.

Probation – Leading up to and including suspension from the SECC for a specified period of time to be determined by the SECC officers and directors.

Expulsion – Involuntary termination of a school’s membership in the SECC for a period of one (1) or more calendar years. No member of the SECC shall engage in any athletic competition with the expelled school during the time of expulsion.

The final any determination of penalty is at the sole discretion of the SECC Board. The decision of the SECC Board shall be final.

# Ejections

* 1. Any unsportsmanlike conduct that results in the ejection of the offending party (player or coach) may be ineligible to participate in SECC athletic competition for a minimum period of one game and a maximum period of the remaining season determined by review of the Board. In addition, the school may be fined as determined by the Board per person ejected. The offending member or probationary school must contact the President stating the cause for the ejection within 24 hours and no ejected player or coach may participate in any games until the SECC Board resolves the matter.
	2. Schools that fail to comply with the SECC dress and grooming standards shall be subject to the penalties as set forth by the SECC By-laws.

# Protests

* 1. Any member or probationary school who desires to file a protest over the eligibility of a student(s) or actions of a member or probationary school shall submit in writing a full statement of the facts over the signature of its pastor or administrator to President within 24 hours of the sporting event. The President shall forward a copy of the SECC Officers and school against which the protest has been made. The SECC Board shall investigate the matter and determine if and what disciplinary action is needed. The decisions of the SECC Board shall be final.
	2. Any member or probationary school who desires to file a protest over the eligibility of a student or actions of a member or probationary school at a tournament shall immediately notify an SECC Officer, who shall assemble all present SECC officers to determine if the protest requires immediate action, and if so the Board shall take appropriate action and issue a final binding ruling. If the protest does not require immediate action, procedure 9.3.1 shall be followed.
	3. If irregular or non-standard situations arise before or during a game, agreements by coaches or athletic directors concerning these situations shall stand and shall not be protested regardless of the outcome.

# Forfeiture & Penalized Contests

* 1. If an ineligible student is accidentally or intentionally permitted to participate in an SECC athletic contest, forfeiture of the game shall be final.
	2. If a member or probationary school cancels or reschedules a game less than 48 hours before noon of the contest date, said school shall be responsible for opposing teams expenses. Example: Official fees, game preparation costs, travel expenses, etc.

BYLAW, ARTICLE X – **COMPETITION OFFICIALS, RULES, & GUIDELINES**

# Competition Officials, Rules, Guidelines

* 1. No school may enter into a contractual agreement for the SECC.
	2. Member or probationary school personnel, school parents or church members who are state certified to officiate may not officiate for their school against SECC competition unless both schools are in agreement. The home school must notify the visiting school at least 96 hours (four days) before the scheduled contest to provide for time to object. If both schools are in agreement, once a game has been played, the results will be final.
	3. All officials must be certified in their respective sports and be a member of an officiating agency. Each sport must have the following number of officials:

Football: At least two officials are required and must be SECC certified. Games will be governed by SECC rules and guidelines.

Volleyball: Only one official is required to be SECC or Florida (Georgia) High School Certified. Games will be governed by Florida (Georgia) High School and SECC rules and guidelines. Two voluntary line judges will be required for each match (preferably one from each school).

Basketball: At least two officials are required and must be Florida (Georgia) High School Certified. Games will be governed by FHS (GHS) and SECC rules and guidelines.

Baseball & Softball: At least two officials will be required for baseball & softball games. Officials must be certified. Games will be governed by NFHS and SECC rules and guidelines.

Soccer: At least two certified officials will be required for softball games. Games will be governed by NFHS and SECC rules and guidelines.

* 1. Home teams are responsible for chain crews, officials, linesmen, scorekeepers, timers, etc.
	2. SECC member or probationary schools having a special activity such as a homecoming ceremony during the first half time must not exceed 30 minutes, must be pre-arranged with the officials and visiting team.
	3. All schools shall give officials a 30-minute grace period for arriving late to games. After 30 minutes, the home team shall be required to forfeit if an agreeable rescheduling or postponing of the game cannot be decided upon.
	4. All stunts performed by cheerleaders must adhere to the NFHS requirements. Cheers may not involve rhythmic motion, which gives the appearance of dancing. A sense of Christian modesty and Christian sportsmanship must pervade all cheering routines. Music used as a part of a cheer or stunt routine must adhere to SECC standards. Cheerleading teams should show courtesy to each other by not starting cheers while the opposing cheerleaders are cheering.
	5. Males may not be used as cheerleaders, or as part of a stunt, including use as a spotter or base.

BYLAW, ARTICLE XI - **AMENDMENTS**

# Amendments

* 1. These By-laws may be amended by a 75% vote of the SECC member schools at a meeting. If necessary, a voice vote held by phone conference shall be sufficient.
	2. Special exceptions to bylaws can be made at regular or called meetings. Special exceptions will be recorded in the minutes. These will be reviewed annually to determine if they are still needed. Special exceptions should be granted only for conditions that are not the result of a school, team or student’s choice. The school granted the special exception has the burden of reminding the Board of the exception and the reason for it
	3. Special individual exceptions that cannot wait until a meeting and\or interpretations of the bylaws shall be addressed to and by the Board in writing or via email by the Athletic Director of requesting school. The Board will respond in like manner to the A.D. These decisions will be reported to all schools at next meeting and should not be regarded as precedent setting or carrying forward to future seasons unless approved by majority vote of schools.
	4. In keeping with the biblical principle (1 Corinthians 6:1-8) regarding not taking a brother in Christ to court, no school official (coach, athletic director, administrator, etc.) shall threaten to bring suit or threaten to take legal action against an officer of the SECC or another school or it’s representatives. The school that makes such threats will be disciplined by the league with expulsion from league participation for a minimum of one year – a longer period of time (up to and including a permanent ban) may be deemed necessary by the officers and membership of the SECC board on the circumstances of the event.
	5. In the baseball/softball tournament, if a game has reached the time limit and is tied but has not reached the 7th inning, all subsequent innings (after the time limit has expired) will begin with the last batter (final out of the previous inning) starting the inning at second base. This is in order to try to break a tie and complete the game without causing too much of a delay to the tournament schedule.
	6. In the state basketball tournament if the one-quarter tie-breaker game must be played to determine a champion, the time-outs should be limited to one full and one 30 second time out, and the player fouls should be limited to two per player before fouling out.
	7. Rosters for all teams should be put on MaxPreps along with the school’s schedule of games. Rosters must be finalized at least two weeks (or by designated date set before the beginning of the season) before the end of the season tournament. No player can be added to a team’s roster after the designated date for each sport. (E.G. two full weeks prior to the end of the season tournament). This would not prevent a school from removing players from their roster for the tournament at the discretion of the school. It would simply prevent trying to add players (even from “sister” schools) too close to the tournament or in order to lay in the tournament.
	8. The “sister school” rule for participation must be requested and utilized at the beginning of a sport season, not for pulling teams together for the end of the season tournament.

 1.9 Any school official, coach, or student participating in any SECC activity must do so according to the

 gender/sex that is on their birth certificate in keeping with the biblical belief that God created only male and female (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:21-23; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6) and that such distinction is determined at conception (genetically),revealed at birth, and is not fluid or subject to change.