



**SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**  
**STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**CONSTITUTION**

**2013-14**



**Alabama A&M University**

**Alabama State University**

**Alcorn State University**

**Grambling State University**

**Jackson State University**

**Mississippi Valley State University**

**Prairie View A&M University**

**Southern University**

**Texas Southern University**

**University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff**

# **SWAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee CONSTITUTION**

## **Article 1 – Name**

The name of this committee shall be the Southwestern Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SWAC SAAC).

## **Article 2 – Purpose**

The purpose of the SWAC SAAC is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete welfare and fostering a positive student-athlete image. To this end, through the orderly establishment and enforcement of legislation, the committee aims:

- a. To encourage sound academic practices for student-athletes;
- b. To represent SWAC student-athletes on the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee;
- c. To actively participate in the governance of the Southwestern Athletic Conference;
- d. To provide leadership and a voice in the development of public attitudes toward intercollegiate athletics generally;
- e. To promote student-athlete participation in the legislative process;
- f. To address the future needs of the Southwestern Athletic Conference in a spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit of the member institutions;
- g. To stimulate good sportsmanship; and
- h. To garner the support of athletics administrators, coaches and staff on initiatives important to student-athletes.

## **Article 3 – Membership**

**3.1 Composition** – The Southwestern Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will be composed of two (one male and one female) student-athlete representatives from each SWAC member school. The committee will also consist of five elected officers for a total of twenty-five student-athletes. Should the designated representatives be unable to attend a scheduled meeting, the Southwestern Athletic Conference liaison will consider an institution's request to send another representative on a case-by-case basis.

**3.2 Selection** – Each campus in consultation with the conference office liaison, shall determine its SWAC SAAC representatives. Campus SAAC roster along with nominations for SWAC SAAC are due to the conference office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of September. Institutions are encouraged to consider gender and sport diversity in the selection of their SWAC SAAC representatives. The conference may make recommendations to diversify the conference SAAC relative to sport and gender when vacancies become available.

**3.3 Eligibility** – All NCAA-eligible student-athletes in any varsity sport sponsored by the Southwestern Athletic Conference shall be eligible to serve on the SWAC SAAC.

a. **President, Vice President and National SAAC Representative** – All student-athletes classified as a junior or senior status after completing at least one year attendance and participation as an eligible student-athlete at the certifying institution shall be eligible to serve as President, Vice President or National Representative of the SWAC SAAC. *(Adopted 6/7/2011)*

b. **Secretary and Parliamentarian** – All student-athletes classified as a sophomore or above status after completing at least one year attendance and participation as an eligible student-athlete at the certifying institution shall be eligible to serve as Secretary or Parliamentarian of the SWAC SAAC. *(Adopted 6/7/2011)*

**3.4 Term** – Each representative shall serve a one-year term. Representatives may serve more than one term.

#### **Article 4 – Quorum**

A quorum will consist of one-half of the voting membership.

#### **Article 5 – Voting**

Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote to be exercised by the voting delegate attending the meeting. Voting by proxy is prohibited unless a vote is required outside of a regular session.

#### **Article 7 – Officers**

**7.1 Offices** – The offices of the committee shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian and National SAAC Representative.

**7.2 Restrictions** – Each officer, with the exclusion of the National SAAC Representative, must be from a different member institution.

**7.3 Election** – Officers shall be elected during the in-person SAAC meeting at the SWAC Spring Meetings.

**7.4 Term** – Officers shall serve for a one year term. Officers may serve more than one term.

#### **Article 8 – Ratification and Amendment of Constitution**

**8.1 Amendment Process** – The Constitution may be amended only at a regular meeting of the SWAC SAAC. A two-thirds vote of institutions in good standing is needed to pass

an amendment to the Constitution. Amendments are sent to the Athletic Administrators committee for final approval.

**8.2 Effective Date** – All amendments shall become effective upon ratification unless a different time is specified.

## **SWAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee**

### **Bylaws**

#### **Article 1 – Qualifications**

The institution's voting delegate on the Southwestern Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee must be of at least sophomore academic standing, completed one year of attendance and participation as an eligible student-athlete at the certifying institution and eligible for practice and competition during the current academic year.

#### **Article 2 – Meetings**

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall conduct one (1) in-person meeting at the Conference Spring Administrative Meetings along with regularly scheduled conference calls. *(Revised 6/7/011)*

#### **Article 3 – Payment of Expenses**

Each institution is responsible for providing the travel and lodging to send the SAAC representatives to meetings.

#### **Article 4 – Officer Roles and Responsibilities**

**4.1 President** – The President of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee serves as the SAAC representative on the SWAC Sports Administrators Committee.

**4.2 Vice President** – The Vice President of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Student Athlete Advisory Committee serves as chair of the Community Service Subcommittee. He/She serves in the absence of the president.

**4.3 Secretary** – The Secretary of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is responsible for maintaining and monitoring the SWAC SAAC List-Serve, maintaining a current and accurate roster of SWAC SAAC members and keeps accurate records of all proceedings and action items.

**4.4 National Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative** - This person serves a two-year term on the NCAA Division I National Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

**4.5 Parliamentarian** – The parliamentarian of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Student Athlete Advisory Committee should be responsible for keeping order during all meetings.

## **Article 5 – Advisors**

**5.1 Conference Office Liaison** – A staff member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference shall be appointed by the Conference Commissioner to serve as the liaison to the SWAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The Conference Office Liaison is a non-voting member of the SWAC SAAC.

**5.2 Faculty Athletic Representative Advisor** – A Faculty Athletic Representative will be assigned to assist the SWAC SAAC each year. The Faculty Athletic Representative at the same institution of the SWAC SAAC Vice-President will serve as a non-voting advisor of the SWAC SAAC on issues related to academics.

**5.3 SAAC Campus Advisor** – The SAAC Campus Advisor of the SWAC SAAC President will serve as a non-voting advisor to the SWAC SAAC.

## **Article 6 – Committees**

**6.1 Committee Appointments** – Each voting delegate of the SWAC SAAC is required to serve on at least one (1) subcommittee. Members will be asked to specify their 1<sup>st</sup> and alternate choices for committees and every effort will be made to assign members with their preference. Any vacancies will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

**6.2 Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee of the SWAC SAAC is comprised of the President, Vice President, and Secretary. The Executive Committee assists with creating the agenda for the meetings in consultation with the SWAC Conference Liaison. The Executive Committee may appoint other ad hoc committees as necessary.

**6.3 Legislative Subcommittee.** The Legislative Subcommittee is comprised of a minimum of 3 members. The duties of the legislative subcommittee shall include assisting the Division I SAAC representative with tracking NCAA and Conference specific legislation, identifying student-athlete welfare issues in proposed legislation, and bringing governance matters to the attention of the assembled delegates. This committee is comprised of the SWAC SAAC President, the National SAAC representative, and a minimum of 1 other member.

**6.4 Student-Athlete Enrichment Subcommittee.** The Student-Athlete Enrichment Subcommittee is comprised of 2 members. The duties of the Student-Athlete Enrichment Subcommittee are to identify and coordinate conference-wide community service initiatives, NCAA Student-Athlete Affairs programming ideas, and other student-athlete enhancement or outreach activities. The Student-Athlete Enrichment Subcommittee is also responsible for generating ideas for internal development of the SWAC SAAC.

**6.5 Community Service Subcommittee.** The Community Service Subcommittee is responsible for identifying community service initiatives for the SAAC. This committee is chaired by the Vice President.

## **A. Conference Initiatives**

- i. APR Day: The conference will establish a conference-wide APR Day in which members of campus Student-Athlete Advisory Committees (SAAC) and athletic administrators use activities and programs to educate student-athletes, coaches, and other campus departments on the NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) *(effective 5/30/13)*
- ii. Coin Drive: The SWAC SAAC will conduct a conference-wide community service event for the spring semesters of each year during the conference basketball season. The coin drive is a competition between schools; however, it is also a chance to raise money for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and give back to the community.

## **Article 7 – Amendment of Bylaws**

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be submitted to the Secretary at least 10 (ten) days prior to the SWAC Spring Meetings. The amendment will be discussed at the meeting and if a quorum is present, a vote will be taken. A majority vote is required for ratification of an amendment. *(Revised 6/7/2011)*