2012 SEC Tournament

March 8-11 • New Orleans Arena • New Orleans, La.

The Southeastern Conference Men's Basketball Tournament returns to the Crescent City as New Orleans, La., will host the 2012 event. It is the third time the city has hosted the tournament and the first for the New Orleans Arena. This will be the fifth time state of Louisiana (Baton Rouge in 1938 and 1988 and New Orleans 1996 and 2003) has hosted the tournament.

Opened on October 29, 1999, at a cost of $112 million, the New Orleans Arena is the home of the National Basketball Association's New Orleans Hornets and has hosted the NCAA Tournament in each of the last two years. Located adjacent to the Louisiana Superdome, the arena has a seating capacity of 18,000 for basketball.

The winner of the 11-game tournament receives the SEC's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The tournament seeds, conference championship and division titles are determined by the 16-game conference schedule during the regular season. Teams are seeded 1-12 based on their regular season conference finish.

Atlanta served as host of the inaugural SEC Tournament played following the 1932-33 season and did so again after the 1933-34 season. The event was held every year through 1952, with the exception of 1935. After a 26-year layoff (1953-78), the tournament was renewed in 1979. The 2012 tournament will be the 52nd in league history and the 33rd since the renewal.

The SEC has shown extraordinary balance in the tournament, evidenced by the fact that a different school won the first seven titles after the renewal. The event has helped set the stage for SEC teams in the NCAA Tournament, as 21 of tournament champions since the tournament resumed in 1979 have advanced to at least the Sweet 16. Three of the last 14 SEC Tournament champions have gone on to win the national championship. Since the renewal in 1979, the SEC Tournament Champion has failed to win at least one NCAA Tournament game only four times.

Kentucky leads the league with 27 SEC Tournament titles. Alabama is second with six, while Tennessee ranks third with four. Florida and Mississippi State each have three championship trophies and Georgia has two. Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt and former league member Georgia Tech have each won one SEC Tournament championship.

FIRST ROUND - March 8 (Thursday)

Game 1	#8 vs. #9 [SEC Network]	Noon CT
Game 2	#5 vs. #12 [SEC Network]	2:30 p.m. CT
Game 3	#7 vs. #10 [SEC Network]	6:30 p.m. CT
Game 4	#6 vs. #11 [SEC Network]	9:00 p.m. CT

SECOND ROUND - March 9 (Friday)

Game 5	Game 1 Winner vs. #1 [SEC Network]	Noon CT
Game 6	Game 2 Winner vs. #4 [SEC Network]	2:30 p.m. CT
Game 7	Game 3 Winner vs. #2 [SEC Network]	6:30 p.m. CT
Game 8	Game 4 Winner vs. #3 [SEC Network]	9:00 p.m. CT

SEMIFINALS - March 10 (Saturday)

Game 9	Game 5 Winner vs. Game 6 Winner [ABC]	Noon CT
Game 10	Game 7 Winner vs. Game 8 Winner [ABC]	2:30 p.m. CT

FINALS - March 11 (Sunday)

Game 11	Game 9 Winner vs. Game 10 Winner [ABC]	Noon CT

FUTURE SEC TOURNAMENT DATES & SITES

March 8-11, 2012	New Orleans, La. (New Orleans Arena)
March 14-17, 2013	Nashville, Tenn. (Bridgestone Arena)
March 13-16, 2014	Atlanta, Ga. (Georgia Dome)
March 12-15, 2015	Nashville, Tenn. (Bridgestone Arena)
March 10-13, 2016	Nashville, Tenn. (Bridgestone Arena)
March 9-12, 2017	TBD
March 8-11, 2018	TBD
March 14-17, 2019	Nashville, Tenn. (Bridgestone Arena)

THE ROAD TO NEW ORLEANS

Below is a breakdown of the 2012 SEC Tournament seeds and matchups if the season ended on February 20.

Seeding		Record	Games Remaining
1.	Kentucky	12-0	4 - @MS, VU, UG, @UF
2.	Florida	9-3	4 - AU, @UG, @VU, UK
3.	Vanderbilt	8-4	4 - SC, @UK, UF, @UT
4.	Mississippi State^	6-6	4 - UK, @UA, @SC, AR
5.	LSU^	6-6	4 - UG, @UM, UT, @AU
6.	Alabama^	6-6	4 - @AR, MS, AU, @UM
7.	Tennessee^	6-6	4 - UM, @SC, @LS, VU
8.	Ole Miss%	5-7	4 - @UT, LS, @AR, UA
9.	Arkansas%	5-7	4 - UA, @AU, UM, @MS
10.	Auburn	4-8	4 - @UF, AR, @UA, LS
11.	Georgia	3-9	4 - @LS, UF, @UK, SC
12.	South Carolina	2-10	4 - @VU, UT, MS, @UG

^—Record versus other three tied teams: MS 3-1, Ua 2-2, LS 2-2, UT 0-2. LS is 1-1 against MS while UA is 0-1.

%—UM won the head-to-head meeting with AR

First Round Matchups (if season ended 2/17; Clinched in BOLD)

[8] Ole Miss vs. [9] Arkansas	Noon CT
[5] LSU vs. [12] South Carolina	2:30 p.m. CT
[7] Tennessee vs. [10] Auburn	6:30 p.m. CT
[6] Alabama vs. [11] Georgia	9:00 p.m. CT

Byes: [1] Kentucky, [2] Florida, [3] Vanderbilt, [4] Mississippi State

SEC TOURNAMENT TIE-BREAKER PROCEDURES

Teams should be seeded No. 1 through No. 12 in the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament bracket based upon the final regular season SEC standings. Teams that finished No. 1 through No. 4 in the final regular season standings shall receive a "bye" on the first day of the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament.

1. Two-Team Tie. The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:
   A. Won-lost results of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
   B. Won-lost record of the two teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 12 seed, if necessary).
   C. Coin flip by the Commissioner.

2. Three-Team Tie (or more). When three or more teams are tied, the following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken. If two teams remain tied after a tiebreaker provision, the two-team tiebreaker formula will be used.
   A. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams (Example: Team A is 3-1, Team B is 2-2 and Team C is 1-3 - - Team A would be seeded highest, Team B second-highest and Team C lowest of the three).
   B. Best winning percentage of the tied teams versus the No. 1 seed (and proceeding through the No. 12 seed, if necessary).
   C. If two teams remain, coin flip by the Commissioner.
   D. If three or more teams remain, draw by the Commissioner.

For the purpose of seeding, if an institution is precluded from participating in the tournament, it shall automatically be seeded last in its division. The No. 5 seed with the best record will then receive a bye. However, for the purpose of breaking ties, that team shall remain where it finished in the regular-season standings BEFORE being seeded last.