1. **NAME**

The name of this athletic association shall be the Atlantic Sun Conference (ASUN Conference). The members and admission dates for competition are: Florida Gulf Coast University--Fort Myers, Florida (2007); Jacksonville University--Jacksonville, Florida (1998); Kennesaw State University--Kennesaw, Georgia (2005); Liberty University--Lynchburg, Va. (2018); Lipscomb University--Nashville, Tennessee (2003); New Jersey Institute of Technology--Newark, New Jersey (2015); University of North Alabama--Florence, Alabama (2018); University of North Florida--Jacksonville, Florida (2005); and Stetson University--DeLand, Florida (1985).

2. **PURPOSE**

2.1. **Mission**

The ASUN Conference shall support its member institutions in providing intercollegiate athletics programs committed to *Building Winners for Life*.

2.2. **Vision**

We Can!

2.3. **Our ASUN Beams**

A) STUDENTS FIRST

In everything we do, the student-athlete comes first. We lead by example in embracing a student-first culture.

B) RISE

We share a history of firsts and remain committed to elevating ASUN student-athletes and bettering our future.

C) CONNECT

We are united as a community of students, athletes, coaches, faculty, administrators, staff and fans.

D) IMPACT

Our success resides in the impact we make in competition, in the classroom and in the community. Making a difference counts.
2.4. Core Values

a) Education
b) Honesty
c) Student-Athlete Experience
d) Fairness
e) Health
f) Ambition
g) Respect
h) Diversity
i) Inclusion
j) Leadership
k) Responsibility
l) Sportsmanship

The ASUN Core Values serve as the basis for ASUN policy decisions.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1. Code

We will conduct ourselves with the highest levels of honesty, fairness, respect and responsibility.

3.2. Commitment

Our conduct shapes the ASUN reputation. We commit to define our character by displaying good sportsmanship at all times by conducting ourselves according to the ASUN Code of Conduct (“Code”).

3.3. Scope

The Code governs all ASUN representatives. This includes all member institution delegates, athletics department staff and representatives, student-athletes, coaches, officials and ASUN staff. The Code shall apply during competition and during all other activity.

3.4. Participation

3.4.1. All Representatives

All parties included as ASUN representatives (3.3 above) shall participate in upholding the Code. All will uphold the Code in their own behavior and shall be responsible for building the same expectation in others.
3.4.2. Addressing Unmet Expectations

Should an ASUN representative (“Party 1”) experience conduct during an exchange with another ASUN representative (“Party 2”) that does not meet Party 1’s expectation of behavior based on the Code, Party 1 shall address such an incidence by following the resolution steps below:

a) Consider an honest, respectful exchange with the other party, in private or supervised as Party 1 determines appropriate, to reach resolution on the issue and agree on conduct expectations; if this step is not possible, preferable or does not provide resolution, then Party 1 shall

b) Report the behavior to an institutional representative in a peer-level standing to Party 2; these parties shall have an honest, respectful exchange to reach resolution; if this step does not provide resolution, then

c) The issue shall be reported to the direct supervisors of the parties who did not reach resolution in the prior step; these parties shall have an honest, respectful exchange to reach resolution; if this step does not provide resolution, step (c) shall be repeated until resolution or until the issue has reached the athletics directors; should the athletics directors fail to reach resolution, the issue will be reported to the Commissioner.

3.5. Responsibility of the Commissioner

3.5.1. Investigate and Issue Sanctions

The Commissioner shall have the responsibility and the power to investigate any behavior that comes to the attention of the conference office, to determine violations, and to impose penalties and sanctions against any member institution or ASUN representative for conduct that is deemed to have violated the spirit or the letter of the ASUN Code of Conduct and/or ASUN legislation.

3.5.2. Correctable Error

The Commissioner shall have the responsibility and the power to prevent an unwarranted suspension which would otherwise occur under any ASUN policy by addressing and rectifying a correctable error.

3.5.3. Commissioner’s Statement on the Code

The Commissioner shall have the responsibility to provide a Commissioner’s Statement on the ASUN Code of Conduct. The Statement
will provide guidance on how the Commissioner will evaluate unsporting behavior and behavior deemed to be contrary to the Code. The Statement will also include a database of all disciplinary actions taken in enforcement of the Code. The database will be reviewed annually with the Executive Committee. The case precedent database shall also be available to all ASUN representatives.

Commissioner’s Statement on the ASUN Code of Conduct

1. **STATEMENT CONSTRUCT**

1.1. **Requirement**

As required under ASUN Constitution Article 3.5.3, the Commissioner shall maintain a Statement on the ASUN Code of Conduct.

1.2. **Amendment**

The Commissioner may amend this Statement at any time based on new case precedents, guidance received from the Executive Committee, or when clarification or amendment is deemed appropriate.

1.3. **Purpose**

The purpose of the Commissioner’s Statement on the Code is to present clear communication and guidance on the expectations of the conference office and to provide historic case illustrations of disciplinary precedent for failures to uphold the Code.

1.4. **Guidance**

The sections of this Statement to follow are provided only for general guidance. Each case of possible Code violations will be evaluated on its own.

1.5. **Precedent**

A database of all case evaluations and disciplinary action taken under the Code shall be maintained for ASUN member delegate review.

2. **COMMISSIONER’S EXPECTATION**

As fellow representatives of the ASUN Conference, we share the joint expectation that each of us shall conduct ourselves with sportsmanship in compliance with the Code. We agree that our commitment is to conduct all ASUN interactions in a manner that upholds the highest levels of **honesty, fairness, respect and responsibility**.
**Honesty:** Be honest.

- good and truthful
- not lying, stealing, or cheating
- showing or suggesting a good and truthful character
- not hiding the truth about someone or something: not meant to deceive someone

**Fairness:** Be fair.

- agreeing with what is thought to be right or acceptable
- treating people in a way that does not favor some over others
- not too harsh or critical

**Respect:** Be respectful. Show respect.

- a feeling of admiring someone or something that is good, valuable, important
- a feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, and should be treated in an appropriate way

**Responsibility:** Be responsible.

- having the job or duty of dealing with or taking care of something or someone
- able to be trusted to do what is right or to do the things that are expected or required
- involving important duties, decisions, that you are trusted to do

3. **CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT**

3.1. **CEO and AD Responsibility**

As leaders of the institution and its athletics department, each school’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Athletics Director (AD) shall be expected to create and actively maintain a plan for providing a safe and healthy environment for all competitors and fans. Through effective communication of this plan, all ASUN representatives will understand the institution’s sincere commitment to and expectation of compliance with the Code.

3.2. **Reminder on Scope**

The Commissioner’s expectation is that all persons representing the institution in any capacity during athletic events will be familiar with and adhere to the Code. This applies to volunteers, ushers, broadcasters, etc. The Code applies to all our activity together.
3.3. Visiting Teams

Visiting teams will be treated in a manner consistent with the Code. In upholding the Code, the “Golden Rule” provides the standard: the treatment of a visiting team shall be in the same manner that the home team would want its own teams to be treated.

3.4. Fostering a Healthy, Inclusive Atmosphere

Every ASUN competition should be conducted in a healthy, family environment that is appropriate for and welcoming to all individuals. This atmosphere shall be provided to all participants, workers, fans and others, regardless of age, race, gender or rank.

3.5. Respect for Others

Respect is at the forefront of all behavior, especially toward opponents and officials.

4. GAME EJECTION REVIEW/SUSPENSION Ejection Review Process (document)

All game ejections will be reviewed. As of July 2016, ASUN policy no longer mandates that each ejection automatically result in a one-game suspension for the ejected party. However, the expectation of the Commissioner and the Presidents’ Council is that any conduct that clearly calls for ejection under the game’s unsporting conduct rules or exhibits a clear failure to uphold the ASUN Code of Conduct shall be grounds for a one-game suspension.

5. UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR - RULES OF PLAY

Any incident during the course of competition that was unaddressed during the competition, or was discovered through information presented to the conference office subsequent to the competition, that is found to be in violation of the sport-specific playing rules, shall result, at the minimum, in the application of appropriate penalties under the rules of play had such behavior been penalized during the contest. If the rules of play had called for ejection, the offending party should expect to be suspended for a subsequent contest.

6. PROFANE AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

The Commissioner shall have no tolerance for profane and abusive language in any contest. Such behavior shall also be deemed a violation of the Code when it occurs in any ASUN setting - contest, practice, meeting, etc. Violations shall result in suspensions or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.

7. ACCUMULATION OF VIOLATIONS

ASUN policy previously (prior to October 2016) called for the mandatory one-game
suspension of the head coach if the program as a whole suffered three unsporting ejections. The Commissioner shall consider multiple violations as a program-specific issue and will address such problems through disciplinary action directed at the head coach. A coach should expect to receive a one-game suspension if that coach’s team has three ejections in any given season.

8. **EVENT MANAGEMENT**

Event Management Guidelines will be provided for hosts of ASUN competition. Failure to uphold the host guidelines will subject the host institution to possible disciplinary action. During competition, it is expected that the Event Manager/Crowd Control Officer will be quick to respond when crowd behavior, chants, signs or other displays include any display that violates the Code. Such violators may be warned once, but successive violations must be dealt with through removal from the facility. Should the Commissioner become aware of any failure to provide proper event management or any failure to address identified crowd control problems, the institution shall be subject to fines and/or other disciplinary action as provided for under the power of the Commissioner.