

SoCon Meeting In Asheville

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Commissioner John Iamarino and the Southern Conference are holding their spring meeting today in Asheville. The meeting, which includes school presidents, athletic directors and coaches, will focus its discussion on the status of

the league's 12 member schools, and what to do if any of them leave. Unlike so many other Division I conferences that have dealt with member turnover during the past couple of years, the SoCon has maintained its 12 members, at least for now.

But there are concerns with Appalachian State trying to move up to a Football Bowl Subdivision conference, Georgia Southern announcing that it would like to move up to the FBS level in the next decade, and with the Colonial Athletic Association showing interest in Davidson and the College of Charleston.

The big question for Iamarino is what the member schools want from their affiliation with the Southern Conference. Membership issues will get the most attention, but other business topics will include the men's basketball schedule and whether teams should continue playing 18 league games or switch to 16 games; the SoCon's agreement to televise league games on ESPN3.com, and locking up a television deal for the 2012-13 season. SoCon games were shown on public television stations last season (and a local Alabama station).

Iamarino said that unless SoCon games can be shown statewide in its five-state footprint -- only Tennessee and Alabama aren't statewide -- then the league likely won't continue working with PBS stations.