

REGIONALIZATION TALKING POINTS

- ✓ The Division II philosophy statement (as legislated in Division II Bylaw 7.1.2) indicates that a Division II member "believes in scheduling the majority of its athletics competition with other members of Division II, insofar as regional qualification, geographical location and traditional conference scheduling patterns permit."
- ✓ Regionalization is a Division II championships policy that requires sport committees to select a predetermined number of teams in each of the regions of the sports involved. This policy is based on an assumption that due to the regional nature of most Division II schools, sport committees should evaluate and select championships participants based on regional results, as opposed to a national evaluation in which head-to-head and common opponents' results are less prevalent.
- ✓ The Division II regionalization philosophy provides access to national championships from every region of the country. Regionalization does not guarantee that the best eight programs in the country will compete for a national championship but does guarantee that the different regions of the country will be represented at the championship by each region's best team.
- ✓ In addition, regionalization encourages a member school to compete against opponents within its region, instead of seeking contests against opponents outside the geographical region. This scheduling incentive is aimed at helping schools manage their regular-season travel budgets and limit missed class time for Division II student-athletes.
- ✓ With the approval of the new conferences, the Division II Championships Committee is required to place each conference in a geographic region for championships selections.
- ✓ Per Bylaw 18.4.3.3.1, to be eligible for automatic qualification, a conference must be a member of the Association for five consecutive academic years, unless granted a waiver by the Championships Committee.
- ✓ During its deliberations, the Championships Committee considered reviewing all regional placements for new conferences. The following factors were considered in totality as all factors must be considered together and not as stand-alone items (i.e., no one factor is more important than another):
 - Conference membership and location of institutions.
 - Number of institutions in each region to ensure fair access ratios to the championships.
 - Size of each region (e.g., mileage between institutions).
 - Possible future growth of new conferences.
 - Maintaining no more than three AQ conferences in each region.
 - A transition time for institutions to either adjust or begin scheduling institutions in their new region.

At no time during the deliberations by the Championships Committee did historical or perceived strength of conferences factor into the recommendation.

Please contact Karen Kirsch, Director of Championships and liaison to the Division II Championships Committee, with questions regarding regionalization.

DIVISION II REGIONALIZATION MODEL

The following regionalization model was approved June 2007 by the NCAA Division II Championships Committee with a mandatory implementation date of 2008-09. Any changes or additions to these principles must be approved by the committee.

Principles for establishing regions:

- Regions will be determined by state boundaries.
- A state may reside in more than one region.
- All opponents within your geographic region are in-region contests.
- Conferences will be assigned to specific regions for automatic qualification and post-season competition.
- Conference opponents will count as in-region contests regardless of geographic location.
- Opponents residing within your state regardless of conference affiliation are in-region contests.
- All opponents (regardless of conference affiliation) in states contiguous to your state are in-region contests.

Additional Principles:

- Institutions in the state of Montana will be able to consider Nebraska and Colorado as contiguous states (and vice versa). (There are no Division II institutions currently in states contiguous to Montana's southern border.)
- The west region may consider the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico as contiguous states (and vice versa).
- Institutions located in Minnesota and Michigan may compete against each other and be considered as contiguous states (those contests count as in-region).
- Institutions located in Colorado and Texas are considered contiguous and may count competitions between these institutions as in-region contests.
- Institutions located in Texas and Mississippi are considered contiguous and may count competitions between these institutions as in-region contests.
- Institutions and conferences with a common mission (i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities) may consider inter-conference contests or independent contests against schools with similar missions as in-region, regardless of their geographic location and/or regional assignment.
- Institutions in the Atlantic and East Regions will be able to consider the District of Columbia as in-region contests (and vice versa).

**2025-26 CONFERENCE REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR AUTOMATIC
QUALIFICATION AND POSTSEASON COMPETITION**

REGION	CONFERENCES
West	California Collegiate Athletic Association Great Northwest Athletic Conference Pacific West Conference
Central	Great American Conference Mid-American Athletic Conference Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
South Central	Lone Star Conference Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference
Midwest	Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Great Lakes Valley Conference Great Midwest Athletic Conference
South	Gulf South Conference Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Sunshine State Athletic Conference
Southeast	Conference Carolinas Peach Belt Conference South Atlantic Conference
Atlantic	Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Mountain East Conference Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
East	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference East Coast Conference Northeast 10 Conference

Note: An institution that is a single sport member of a conference will compete as a member of that conference for selection and ranking purposes.