

NCAA Power Index (NPI) Overview

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Agenda

- Background.
- Feedback process.
- Legislative proposal.
- NPI overview.
- Next steps.

Background



- Review began as a result of:
 - Perception of inconsistent application of criteria (between regions and sports);
 - Increasing membership concerns about lack of confidentiality in the process;
 - Challenges getting individuals to serve on RACs and national committees due to time demands; and
 - Division III's adoption of NPI as team sport selection criteria for 2024-25 academic year.
- Question included in the Division II membership survey.

Current Selections Process

- Selection Criteria:
 - All Division II team sports use the same five standard criteria.
 - DII in-region winning percentage, DII winning percentage, DII strength of schedule, DII head-to-head competition and results vs. common DII opponents
 - Sport committees select up to three additional sport-specific criteria, approved on a three-year cycle.
 - Must have a .500 or better record to be selected as an at-large.
- Selection Process:
 - Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) provide ranking recommendations to the national committee based on review of data.
 - Each conference that sponsors the sport has two members on the RAC.
 - National committee ultimately responsible for weekly rankings and selections.

Review Process



Feedback Process

- 12 sport committees, D2ADA Board and D2 CCA.
- Contracted with Tim Danehy, creator of the metric, to provide education.
- Minimum of two meetings per committee/organization: one with the chair/leadership and one with the full committee/org.
- Provided historical data from 2021-22 to 2024-25 to compare teams selected by sport committees and two versions of NPI (default and DIII sport setting).

Historical Comparisons

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Overall
At-Large Teams Selected	376	376	376	366*	1,494
Default NPI Alignment	87%	91%	88%	89%	89%
DIII Dials NPI Alignment	88%	93%	88%	90%	89%

* Decline due to AQs being added in field hockey and men's and women's lacrosse

Feedback



- Strong support for both a metric-based system (86%) and NPI as that metric (93%).
- Consensus for implementation during the 2026-27 academic year.
- NPI allows for transparency in selections and efficiencies in process.
- Elimination of direct head-to-head result criteria will be a philosophical shift.
- Dials should be set on a sport-specific basis.

Legislative Proposal



- Intent: To specify that Division II team sports shall use the NCAA Power Index (NPI) for selections beginning with the 2026-27 academic year.
- Team sports:
 - Fall: field hockey, football, soccer, women's volleyball
 - Winter: basketball
 - Spring: baseball, lacrosse, softball, tennis

Legislative Proposal

- Additional details:
 - Teams would be selected solely by NPI.
 - Sport committees would set sport-specific dials after the 2025-26 championship, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.
 - Dials would be set for three years (similar to current sport-specific additional criteria) but allow for a review after first year to make any corrections.
 - Elimination of requirement that teams have a .500 or better record and the elimination of Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) in team sports.
 - > Golf will still use RACs.
 - **Teams will still be selected regionally.**



NPI Overview

NPI

- Metric-based approach to selections.
- Combination of winning percentage and strength of schedule (SOS).
 - 25/75 (win percentage/SOS) is the default starting value.
- Minimum wins setting establishes the number of wins that must be factored into the formula.
- Optional additional weights:
 - Home-away multiplier
 - Quality win bonus
 - Overtime results

Benefits of NPI

- Provides both transparency and consistency in the selections process, across sports and regions.
- More efficient, fewer people need to be involved in the process.
- Rewards teams for playing the best competition possible and winning those contests.
- Minimum wins setting allows “bad wins” to not negatively impact a team’s ranking. Teams should not be penalized for beating the teams they should beat.

Strength of Schedule

RPI:

- $SOS = \frac{2}{3} OWP + \frac{1}{3} OOWP$
- OWP - Opponents' win %
- OOWP - Opponents' opponents' win %

NPI:

- $SOS = \text{Average of opponents' NPI}$
- Example: Team A has results earning NPI impacts of 52, 58, and 70 from three opponents. SOS is calculated as $52 + 58 + 70 = 180$; $180 / 3 = 60$. $SOS = 60$.

Strength of Schedule Calculation

- Current SOS calculation can result in situations where it is actually better to play a lower ranked team, if they have a better win percentage than a higher ranked team.

Opponent	EX Record	WIN%	OWIN%	OOWIN%	SOS	SOS-ORPI	GM RPI
#257 SUNY Delhi	20 6 0	0.000	76.923	32.662	62.169	+15.534	46.627
#43 %Ithaca	15 13 0	0.000	53.571	67.012	58.052	-3.553	43.539

- Ithaca ranked 214 spots higher than SUNY Delhi, but SUNY Delhi helps SOS more due to the SOS calculation.

Minimum Wins

- Sport committees will establish a minimum number of wins that must be counted as part of the NPI formula, therefore establishing the number of wins that a team could potentially drop in figuring their NPI.
- Within the NPI formula, any win in excess of the minimum wins setting that causes a team's NPI value to go down will be dropped from counting in figuring that teams NPI.
- A team is not required to reach the minimum wins to earn a spot in the championship as an AQ or as an at-large selection to the tournament.
- If a team has fewer wins than the minimum, then all of their wins will count in figuring their NPI.

Quality Win Bonus



- A bonus applied to wins against “quality” teams.
- QWB – base:
 - Sport committee determines base NPI value.
- QWB – multiplier:
 - The amount of bonus awarded for wins against teams with an NPI above the QWB base.
 - Multiplier can range between 0.00 to 1.00.
- The amount of bonus awarded is determined by the difference between opponent’s NPI value and the QWB base value, multiplied by the QWB multiplier.

Quality Win Bonus

Formula for Bonus = (Opp. NPI - QWB Base) * Multiplier

- Example: QWB base is set at 52.00. Multiplier is set at .500.
 - Win over team with NPI of 56.00.
 - $56.00 - 52.00 = 4.00$; $4.00 * .500 = 2.00$ (2.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)
 - Win over team with NPI of 61.00.
 - $61.00 - 52.00 = 9.00$; $9.00 * .500 = 4.50$ (4.50 is the Quality Win Bonus)

Home/Away Multiplier

- Allows for additional emphasis/weights to be placed on away wins and home losses, with less emphasis on home wins and away losses.
- Different weights can be applied to non-conference, conference, and conference postseason contests.
- This is an optional adjustment and can be set at 1.0/1.0 to weigh all wins and losses, home or away, as equal.
- Example: Weights set at 1.2/0.8 Away wins/home losses weigh as 1.2 wins/losses.
 - Home wins/away losses weigh as 0.8 wins/losses.

Overtime Win/Loss

- Allows for an overtime win/loss to count as less than a full win/loss.
- An example is in ice hockey. Overtime is played 3-on-3 versus 5-on-5 in regulation. Since a win in overtime required extra time and was played differently an OT win can be weighted at .75 win/.25 loss. The losing team would get .25 wins/.75 losses.
- Regular season and conference postseason can be weighted differently.
- This is an optional adjustment and can be set at 1.00/0.00 meaning a win is a win, or a loss is a loss regardless of regulation or overtime.



Next Steps

Next Steps



- Educational materials available on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org).
- Referral to team sport committees to consider requiring a minimum number of in-region, non-conference contests.
- Education session and membership vote at the 2026 NCAA Convention.

Next Steps



- If the proposal is adopted in January:
 - Sport committees will make recommendations on dial settings after the conclusion of the respective championship.
 - Once approved by Championships Committee, membership notification through:
 - > Division II Governance and Championships newsletters
 - > Coaches Connection
 - > Sport-specific webinars to review the approved dial settings and the rationale for the dials.
 - ◇ Focus will be for coaches and sport-specific personnel, but open to entire DII membership.
 - NPI data will be published regularly during the season. Championships Committee is discussing cadence.



Questions?



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