



**NCAA Power Index (NPI) Weights, FAQ and Guide**  
*Updated September 18, 2025*

NPI WEIGHTS						
Sport	Win%/SOS	Home/Away Win/Loss	QWB	QWB Multiplier	Overtime	Minimum Wins
FALL SPORTS						
Field Hockey						
Football						
Men's Soccer						
Women's Soccer						
Women's Volleyball						
WINTER SPORTS						
Men's Basketball						
Women's Basketball						
SPRING SPORTS						
Baseball						
Men's Lacrosse						
Women's Lacrosse						
Softball						
Men's Tennis						
Women's Tennis						

*\*Note: This chart will be updated if the proposal is adopted. Sport committees will establish weights at the conclusion of the respective 2025-26 season. Sport-specific rationale for the weights will be provided.*

*NC = non-conference; CF = conference; RS = regular season; PS = postseason*

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the NPI?**

A: The NPI is a system that objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; overtime results (when relevant); and minimum wins.

The weight of winning percentage versus strength of schedule is often referred to as one of the "dials" that a sport committee can adjust, placing any subjectivity within the criteria themselves. For example, a sport committee could set the dials to 30/70 (winning percentage/strength of schedule); 25/75, etc. Other "dials" a sport committee can also choose to apply are home and away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB), and overtime win/loss weights. A sport committees can also elect to require a minimum number of wins to be retained in the NPI adjustment.

**Dials** = The data points that are factored into the NPI calculation. The standard dials are winning percentage and strength of schedule. The optional dials are home and away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB), and overtime win/loss weights. Sport committees determine whether to use the optional dials, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.

**Weights** = The value applied to each dial. Sport committees determine the weight of each dial, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.

**Q: Why update the current championship selection process?**

A: The Championships Committee has been reviewing the current team at-large selection process to ensure that selection criteria is applied consistently to teams during selections. The current championships selection process involves data analysis by each sport committee, which can result in varying approaches. NPI objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on a sport committee's established weighted criteria. This does not eliminate subjectivity entirely; however, the subjectivity is within the sport committee's dial setting process that applies a weight to each dial, which is done prior to the season and not during the selections process.

**Q: Does this mean our current selection criteria goes away?**

A: Winning percentage and strength of schedule will continue to be used and results against Division II opponents will remain the only results considered.

The following criteria will no longer be used: Division II in-region winning percentage, Division II head-to-head competition; results versus common Division II opponents; and the selected sport-specific criteria (up to three). Additionally, the requirement that a team have a .500 or better record will also be eliminated.

**Q: Will any new selection criteria be adopted?**

A: The NPI will continue to use winning percentage and strength of schedule along with a home/away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB); overtime results; and minimum wins.

The home/away multiplier can be used to increase the weight of away wins and home losses while decreasing the weight of home wins and away losses. The QWB provides a bonus for wins against top-level teams, the degree of which is determined by the sport committee. Overtime win/loss weights allow results to be weighted less than regulation wins/losses. The home/away multiplier, QWB and overtime results weights are all optional and do not have to be used if a sport committee elects not to do so.

The criteria are explained in the NPI cheat sheet document included at the end of the FAQ.

**Q: Will selections continue to be done regionally?**

A: Yes. Sport committees will continue to select and bracket teams regionally. However, Championships Committee is committed to a review of bracketing principles as part of the new

Division II operating plan, which will be released in January 2026. If adopted, NPI could be used to evaluate the placement of teams to balance strength more evenly across the bracket.

**Q: What are the benefits of the NPI?**

A: One benefit of the NPI is that all data will be analyzed, and the criteria will be applied objectively to establish the championships field (the at-large berths remaining after AQs are awarded). Additionally, based on this objective analysis, teams will know how they compare against other teams in their region and nationally.

Another benefit of the NPI is that teams are not penalized for winning a contest that it should win. For example, in the current selection criteria, if a strong team plays a weaker team its strength-of-schedule will be negatively impacted even though it won the contest. In the NPI, the team that wins a contest against an opponent with a lower NPI will not be negatively statistically impacted by winning a contest it should win.

**Q: Will the formula/weights be consistent across all sports? If not, why would one sport committee weight one criterion differently than another sport committee?**

A: Each sport will use the same NPI criteria framework (winning percentage, strength of schedule, home-away multiplier, quality win bonus, overtime) but each committee will have the ability to determine the weights/values for each. This allows each sport committee to develop the criteria that is appropriate for its sport. The first dial of winning percentage versus strength of schedule can be set at any two values equaling 100. Home-away multiplier and QWB values may differ from sport to sport if a sport committee elects to use those criteria. Sports with overtime can choose to weight an overtime win or loss differently than a regulation win or loss.

Factors affecting the appropriate values from sport to sport may include the degree of intra-conference vs inter-conference play, the observed home field/court advantage, and playing rules which may dictate overtime play that is conducted in a manner that is different from regulation play.

Sport committees will establish the weight for the dials at the conclusion of the respective 2025-26 season. Sport-specific rationale for the dial weights will be provided once established.

**Q: When would sport committees adjust dials/weights?**

A: Sport committees will use their annual meeting to review the championship selections process. Any changes to the weight of any dial will be communicated to the membership via the annual meeting report, direct communication to the coaching association and posted on the sport committee's landing page on NCAA.org. Once the weights are established, they cannot be changed for a minimum of three seasons. Dials will not be changed weekly during the season.

Note: The Championships Committee will allow sport committees to reconsider dial setting weights after the first year (2026-27 academic year) to ensure the initial weight setting was appropriate. It is anticipated that these adjustments would be limited, if at all. Division III did not change any dial weights after the first year.

**Q: If/when changes are made, how is the membership going to be made aware of the changes?**

A: Changes to the NPI weights/dials will be communicated to the membership through the sport committee's annual meeting report, published on its NCAA.org landing page, and through various membership communications including the Championships Newsletter and the Division II Monthly Update. The established weights (e.g., how the dials are set) will also be published in each sport's pre-championship manual annually.

**Q: How will the sport committees be educated on adjusting the dials/weights?**

A: NCAA sport liaisons will incorporate this training into the already established committee orientation to onboard each committee member.

**Q: What will happen to regional advisory committees?**

A: Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) will be eliminated. Since teams will be selected by the NPI, there is no longer a need for RACs to review data and provide recommendations to the national committee.

**Q: Do regional rankings go away?**

A: Yes. Since the NPI will be the only data used for selections, the sport committee will no longer rank teams as has been traditionally done. However, the NPI data will be published on a regular basis to reflect each team's standing within the region. Championships Committee is still discussing how frequently the NPI data will be published during the season.

**Q: Will nullification still apply?**

A: Yes. If an ineligible student-athlete competes, a statistical penalty will be applied based on the number of Division II contests the student-athlete participated in. This penalty will be based on the previous academic year's NPI data, similar to the calculation used with the current selection criteria.

**Q: How has this been tested?**

A: Sport committees have reviewed sport specific data for the last four seasons (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25). Committees were able to see the selected championship field versus teams that would have been selected based on the NPI and saw only slight variances between the two fields, almost regardless of the dial settings which have not yet been reviewed by sport committees.

**Q: What is the process for adopting a new selection metric?**

A: Changes to selection criteria can be accomplished through a legislative vote at convention or through noncontroversial legislation adopted through the governance structure (e.g.,

recommendation from the Championships Committee to Management Council). The Championships Committee recommended this change move forward as a Convention proposal to allow the full Division II membership to have a vote on the championships selection criteria, similar to the process the last time the team sport selection criteria was changed (2014).

**Q: Will NPI apply to individual-team sports?**

A: No. This change is specific to Division II team sports. Individual-team sports will continue to use the current respective sport-specific selection criteria. Golf will also continue to use RACs.

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**Weights** = The value applied to each dial. Sport committees determine the weight of each dial, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.

**Winning Percentage/Strength of Schedule:**

The two main “dials” are winning percentage and strength of schedule.

25/75 is the default starting value (win percentage / strength of schedule) and sport committees will discuss and set these dials.

- 1) **Winning percentage:** A team’s number of wins divided by the number of that team’s total contests.
- 2) **Strength of Schedule:** SOS is simply an average of a team’s opponent’s NPI.

Example: Team A plays contests against teams with NPIs of 52, 58 and 70. SOS is calculated as  $52 + 58 + 70 = 180$ ;  $180 / 3 = 60$ . SOS = 60.

**Quality Win Bonus:** A bonus applied to wins/partial wins (e.g., overtime victory) against “quality” teams.

- 1) **Quality Win Bonus – Base Value:**
  - a. The sport committee determines the base NPI value at which a QWB is applied.
  - b. The amount of bonus is determined by the difference between opponents NPI value and the QWB base value, multiplied by the QWB multiplier.

Example: Base value is set at 55.00. A bonus will be applied for all wins/partial wins against opponents with an NPI value of 55.00 or higher.

- 2) **Quality Win Bonus – Multiplier:**

- Set the multiplier/magnitude of bonus awarded for wins against teams with an NPI above the QWB base. Values can range from 0.00 to 1.00. Default setting is .500.

Example: QWB base is set at 52.00. Multiplier is set at .500.

- $\text{NPI-QWB Base} = X; X * .500 = \text{Bonus}$ .
- 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)

Example: QWB base is set at 51.00. Multiplier is set at .333.

- Win over team with NPI of 60.00.
- $60.00 - 51.00 = 9.00; 9.00 * .333 = 3.00$  (3.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)
- Win over team with NPI of 57.00.
- $57.00 - 51.00 = 6.00; 6.00 * .333 = 2.00$  (2.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)

#### **Home/Away Multiplier:**

- 1) Allows for additional emphasis/weights to be placed on away wins and home losses, with less emphasis on home wins and away losses.
- 2) Different weights can be applied to non-conference, conference, and [conference] post-season contests.
- 3) This is an optional adjustment and can be set a 1.0/1.0 to weigh all wins and losses, at 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:**

- 1) Allows for an overtime win/loss to count as less than a full win/loss.
- 2) Regular season and post-season can be weighted differently.
- 3) 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.

**Minimum Wins:** The committee can elect to require a minimum number of wins to be retained in the NPI adjustment.

To ask additional questions or to provide feedback, please contact Karen Kirsch ([kkirsch@ncaa.org](mailto:kkirsch@ncaa.org)) or Micaela Liddane ([mliddane@ncaa.org](mailto:mliddane@ncaa.org))