

Introduction to NCAA Power Index (NPI)

The NCAA Power Index (NPI) provides a consistent, data-driven approach to evaluating teams for rankings and championship selections. This guide provides an overview of NPI, its benefits and the key terms used throughout the system.

PURPOSE OF NPI

The NCAA Power Index (NPI) provides an objective, data-driven method to evaluate teams across the NCAA membership while maintaining consistency across sports.

It considers two key factors:

- Strength of a schedule.
- Team performance against its opponents, as measured by wins and losses.

NPI also accounts for differences and sport-specific variances that occur on a sport-by-sport basis.

FOLLOW THE SEASON

Throughout this series, we'll follow a fictional team through its season to see how NPI works in practice.

As we examine the specifics of each dial setting and feature of NPI, we'll examine how wins and losses affect the formula and how the dials help shape a team's final NPI.

A record tells us how the season went. NPI helps show the value behind those performances.

HISTORY

A version of the NPI has been utilized by ice hockey since 2013. It was later expanded for use across NCAA sports.

2024-25

Division III adopted NPI after reviewing three years of data to establish dial settings.

2026-27

Division II adopted NPI following a similar review of Division II specific data.

Ongoing Reviews

Each division has established timelines for future reviews and a process for proposing changes to existing dial settings. Division III completed its first review in August 2026. Division II's first review is scheduled for summer 2027.

BENEFITS

Objective

The NPI uses objectively collected data to determine championship selections and rankings.

Flexible

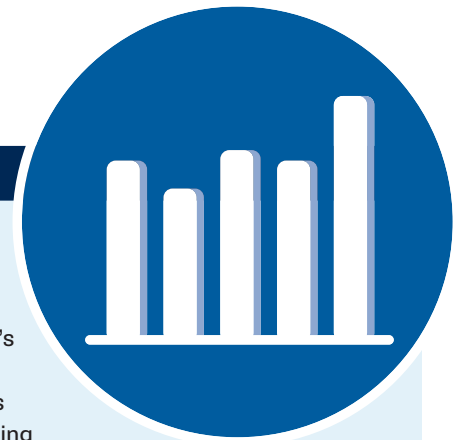
Sport committees can adjust settings to account for the unique characteristics of their sport and membership.

Transparent

The NPI allows teams to be compared across regions using a national ranking. Teams can objectively evaluate their data against that of every other team in the membership.

SOS Protection

Beating a lower-ranked opponent will not negatively affect a team's NPI outside of retained wins. Under the previous selection criteria, defeating a weaker opponent could lower a team's strength of schedule despite the victory. The NPI addresses and corrects this issue.



COLOR KEY

■ Win values or win-related calculations ■ Loss values or loss-related calculations ■ Opponent NPI/Strength of Schedule values ■ Quality Win Base values ■ Noncalculated values

Definitions and Terms

CORE NPI TERMS

These are the basic concepts someone needs to understand first.

Win% - Win/Loss

Calculation of wins and partial wins divided by the number of total contests played, specific to a team's adjusted record.

Strength of Schedule - SOS

Measurement of a team's strength of schedule, determined by the average NPI of its opponents based specific to the adjusted record.

Quality Win Bonus - QWB

Additional win value applied when defeating quality teams as identified by sport committees. Partial wins will provide partial bonuses.

QWB Base

The NPI number an opponent must be above before a win against a team would earn them a Quality Win Bonus.

QWB Multiplier

Determines the strength of the Quality Win Bonus that is awarded.

DIALS AND ADJUSTMENTS

These explain the settings that can change how NPI treats different results.

Dials

The settings used to customize how NPI is calculated. Standard dials include Win%/SOS, Quality Win Bonus and Retained Wins. Some sports may also use optional dials for home/away games, overtime and ties.

Weights

Determines the balance of weight within a dial and its influence on the overall NPI calculation. Each sport committee establishes its own weights, subject to approval by the Championships Committee.

Adjusted Record

The record NPI uses for its calculations. It may differ from a team's overall record because some results can be removed or weighted differently.

Home/Away Weight

Adjusts the value of a result based on where the game is played. An away win can count more than a home win, while a home loss can hurt more than an away loss.

Overtime and Tie Value

Allows an overtime or tie result to count less than a win or loss in regulation.

Minimum Retained Wins

The number of wins or partial wins a team must have before wins that do not help its NPI can be removed from the calculation.

GAME AND RESULT VALUES

These are the numbers NPI produces or uses when evaluating individual results.

Result%

The value assigned to the outcome of a game in the Win%/SOS calculation. A win equals 100 and a loss equals 0.

Win Value

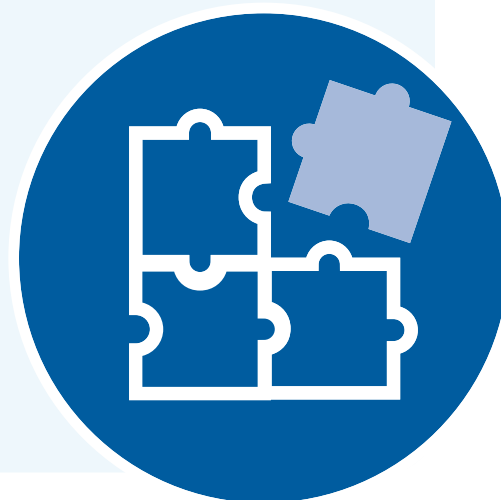
The Net NPI value a team earns for a win. This value can change as more results are added during the season.

Loss Value

The Net NPI value a team receives for a loss. This value can change as more results are added during the season.

Net NPI

The final NPI value a team receives for a result after any adjustments or weights are applied.



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