



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S BOWLING COMMITTEE
JANUARY 9, 2025, VIRTUAL MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

- **Secondary selection criterion.** The NCAA Women's Bowling Committee requests approval to use match scores as a secondary criterion for at-large selection to the women's bowling championship and for seeding the championship bracket beginning with the 2026 championship.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Secondary selection criterion.**

(1) Recommendation. Approve the use of match scores as a secondary criterion for at-large selection to the women's bowling championship and for seeding the championship bracket beginning with the 2026 championship.

(2) Effective date. 2026 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship.

(3) Rationale. The committee noted that it is incredibly difficult to rank teams because of a limited number of available criteria. Many teams do not compete outside of their region, which results for very limited data in the current criteria of: (1) head-to-head competition, (2) results versus common opponents or (3) results versus teams previously selected or ranked. This leaves only record (wins/losses) and RPI (very similar to record) as data points to compare across teams from different regions.

Based on the current selection criterion, having a 1-0 score means winning 850-849 is the equivalent of winning 1,000-750, which is not the case in the committee's opinion. By adding match scores (i.e., total pinfall) to the secondary selection criterion, it will be easier for the committee to compare and assess teams. It will also allow the committee to compare teams across the entire season by looking at their averages in wins or losses.

Winning is important, but in a sport where there are no live televised events and teams don't see each other during the season, scores help to replace the eye test that many selection committees use. In a sport where there is no defense, knowing what teams

score and average is a huge benefit to the committee as they assess which teams are worthy of earning an at-large selection to the championship and what seed each team in the tournament should earn. While each tournament has a different scoring pace, seeing how teams perform against each other in like tournaments is a good indicator of the strength of a team.

The committee had to spend excessive amounts of time last year discussing play-in teams and while the committee had access to data that could easily tell the committee members which teams were probably better than others, the committee couldn't use that data. If this request is approved, the committee will have higher ranked teams needing to compete in the play-in matches to move on in the tournament and while those teams probably won't have a problem winning those matches, it adds another day of competition to an already long tournament for those higher ranked teams. Placing the deserving teams into the main bracket, instead of the play-in match, could have big effects on the tournament.

Having access to as much data as possible to ensure the committee is putting the correct teams in the right places in the bracket is very important. As the sport of bowling and the tournament field expands, the selection process will become even more important and challenging due of the lack of inter-region travel by many teams. A single match or a few matches vs common opponents can be the difference in where a team falls in the seedings.

This data is currently readily available and can be inputted into the score reporting system without substantially more work on anyone's part. It would make the championship bracket better if allowed into the committee's decision-making process.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Women's bowling student-athletes will have the opportunity to participate in a championship consisting of worthy teams that will have been more accurately seeded in the bracket.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- None.

Committee Chair: Jana Woodson, Tulane University, American Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Corey Bray, Championships and Alliances

<p>NCAA Women's Bowling Committee January 9, 2025, Virtual Meeting</p>

Attendees:
Connor Leppink, Carthage College. Diane Jones, La Roche University. John Williamson, Vanderbilt University. Jody Fetterhoff, Duquesne University. Jana Woodson, Tulane University. Michael Fine, Florida State University.
Absentees:
Ian Parisi, Molloy University.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Corey Bray, Championships and Alliances. Leslie Havens, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.