

## APPROVED FOOTBALL BOWL CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK

### POSTSEASON FOOTBALL BOWL GAMES – 2020-21 – 2025-26 BID CYCLE

The **NCAA Football Oversight Committee** and the **NCAA Division I Council** approved the use of a four-year historical data set (i.e., 2014-2017) to determine the allowable number of bowl primary commitments each conference may reasonably contract (rounding up from .6 or above). The Autonomy Five conferences would be required to use one of their allowable commitments to account for their “College Football Playoff (CFP) game” agreement.

Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) independent institutions with a historical bowl eligibility average of .5 or greater shall be eligible to enter into a primary agreement with a bowl game during this new cycle. An independent institution whose historical bowl eligibility average is at .4 or less may enter into a secondary-agreement with a bowl game. A bowl entering into a secondary agreement must also have two historically supported commitments in order to become NCAA certified.

The approved model would leave seven “CFP game” bowl spots that are not officially accounted for by conference commitments. The 79 commitments reflected in the historical data, plus the additional seven uncontracted “CFP game” spots, allow for a potential total of 86 commitments (i.e., 43 bowl games). See the chart on the next page.

1. 6-6 teams shall continue to be defined as “deserving”.
2. Current exceptions which permit a school to be considered a “deserving team” shall remain.
  - a. FBS school may count one victory against Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) opponent, provided opponent averaged 90% of the permissible maximum number of grants-in-aid per year in football during rolling two-year period.
  - b. School which finishes regular season having met the definition of a “deserving team” but loses its conference championship game is still considered a “deserving team”.
3. Rules for alternates in case there is an insufficient number of “deserving teams” shall remain the same.
  - a. A school that would have met the FCS exception but for the fact that one victory was against an FCS opponent that had not averaged 90% of the permissible maximum number of grants-in-aid per year in football during a rolling two-year period and the institution’s waiver request had been denied.
  - b. A school which participated in 13 regular-season contests and finished the season with a record of six wins that count toward meeting the definition of a “deserving team” and seven losses.
  - c. A school that is in its final year of reclassification for FCS to FBS and meets the definition of a “deserving team” or the FCS opponent exception.
4. Continue with the use of teams with a 5-7 record (based on APR) to fill open bowl slots that cannot be filled by teams with a 6-6 or better record (or by one of the exceptions or alternates above).
  - All “deserving” teams must be placed into a bowl game prior to the placement of the any 5-7 teams into a bowl game.
5. Placement of 5-7 teams in a bowl game shall follow the current approach (e.g., eligible in APR rank order, team selects bowl, finances match those of the primary agreement).
6. Current bowl certification requirements shall remain essentially the same.

7. Historically supported conference primary commitments are a requirement for NCAA bowl certification. Should a bowl game have a primary conference commitment that is not supported by the historical data below, the bowl game would not receive NCAA certification.
8. All bowl games shall be NCAA certified for a six-year cycle (i.e., 2020-21 through 2025-26). During the six-year cycle, all NCAA-certified bowl games will be required to submit an annual report with the NCAA. During the annual report process, should a bowl be found to no longer meet the requirements for certification (e.g., failure to adhere to contractual terms of bowl agreement) its NCAA certification may be revoked.
9. In addition to the certification process, it is strongly recommended that conferences and their bowl partners address key aspects of the bowl game from a “best practices” perspective (e.g., student-athlete experience, facility, broadcast exposure, bowl governance, staffing, local community involvement, financial stability, proof of insurance, etc.) to ensure a bowl game is setup for sustained success.
10. Bowl games are also encouraged to consider non-performance clauses in bowl agreements to address the failure of a conference partner to provide a team.

Historical Chart of Bowl Eligible Teams (6+ Wins)						2020-21 through 2025-26 Bowl Cycle		
Conference	2014	2015	2016	2017	Avg	Total Allowable Bowl Commitments	CFP Game Commitments	Allowable Non-CFP Bowl Commitments
American Athletic Conf.	7	8	7	7	7.25	7	0	7
Atlantic Coast Conf.	12	10	11	11	11	11	1	10
Big 12 Conf.	7	7	6	8	7.0	7	1	6
Big Ten Conf.	10	8	10	8	9.0	9	1	8
Conference USA	8	5	6	10	7.25	7	0	7
Mid-American Conf.	6	7	6	7	6.5	6	0	6
Mountain West Conf.	7	7	6	6	6.5	6	0	6
Pac-12 Conf.	8	10	6	9	8.25	8	1	7
Southeastern Conf.	12	10	11	10	10.75	11	1	10
Sun Belt Conf.	6	4	5	4	4.75	5	0	5
FBS Independents								
<i>Army</i>	0	0	1	1	.5	1	0	1
<i>BYU</i>	1	1	1	0	.75	1	0	1
<i>Liberty</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>UMass</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>New Mexico St.</i>	0	0	0	1	.25	0	0	0
	84	77	76	82		79	5	74

A5 CFP COMMITS	NON-CFP COMMITS	NON-CONTRACTED CFP SLOTS	TOTAL POSS. BOWL SLOTS	TOTAL POSS. BOWL GAMES
5	74	7	86	43