



MEMORANDUM

September 27, 2018

VIA EMAIL

TO: Division III Commissioners sponsoring Men's or Women's Ice Hockey.

FROM: Division III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Committees.

SUBJECT: Selections Pilot Program.

This memorandum summarizes recent action taken by the NCAA Division III Championships Committee to approve a two-year pilot program to allow the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Committees to use the PairWise selection system to rank and select teams for championship competition for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons.

First, we acknowledge the support from all of you to ensure that the nearly unanimous voice from the coaching body was considered in the process. Further, your letter of support emphasized the opportunity for strategic review, feedback and potential long-term implementation.

As you know, the PairWise system calculates rankings based on a comparison matrix that applies an equal weight to the selection criteria to compare each team to all other teams. The system is currently used by the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee and the National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Committee, and that has provided the basis for exploration and study over the course of the last two years. Those committees have had great success with PairWise for several years; coaches appreciate the transparency of the process and universally accept the selected teams and seedings.

The recommendation to implement a two-year pilot program is based on the current Division I men's rating percentage index (refer to Attachment A for program detail). The committees will evaluate the results after the first year and may adjust the formula for the second year as needed.

During the pilot program, the committees will not maintain regional advisory committees. If the PairWise system is not adopted following the pilot program, it remains to be determined how the regional advisory committees will be reconstituted (i.e., preserve existing committee rosters or establish new ones). While we anticipate that the PairWise rankings will be made available real-time in the weeks leading up to selections, the committees will publish on NCAA.com a weekly ranking three times leading up to selections and one post-selections as has been done for the last several years.

Please direct any questions throughout the season to the committee chairs or NCAA staff liaisons as noted below.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Creating a pathway to opportunity for college athletes

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

NCAA MEMORANDUM

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LTS:ajk

Attachment

cc: Select NCAA staff

Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Committee

Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee

NCAA Division I Men's and National Collegiate Women's "Pairwise" vs. NCAA Division III Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are applied to Team A vs. Team B (two teams at a time) in Division I/National Collegiate and Division III. "Pairwise" applies the criteria simultaneously to every possible pair and counts how many pairs each team wins. Teams are ranked based on total comparisons won.

Division III Selection Criteria

Winning Percentage
Strength of Schedule (SOS)
Results vs. Ranked Teams
Results vs. Common Opponents
Head-to-Head

Division I/National Collegiate Selection Criteria

Ratings Percentage Index (RPI)

Quality Win Bonus (QWB) *applied to RPI
Results vs. Common Opponents
Head-to-Head

Division III: Winning Percentage (WP) and Strength of Schedule (SOS)

- SOS = 2/3 Opponents' Average Winning Percentage (OWP), 1/3 Opponents' Opponents' Average Winning Percentage (OOWP).
- SOS ratios correspond to standard NCAA RPI values (see below).

Division I/National Collegiate: Ratings Percentage Index (RPI)

- Standard NCAA model is 25-50-25 (25% WP, 50% OWP, 25% OOWP); used in most DI sports.
- Division I Men's Ice Hockey RPI is 25-21-54; National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey RPI is 30-24-46.
- Head-to-head games are excluded in OWP calculation.
- Both Division I Men and National Collegiate Women remove "negative wins" from RPI calculation.
- Men's Division I RPI includes Home/Away weighting.
- RPI is tiebreaker if tied on criteria points.

Division III: Results vs. Ranked Teams

- Results vs. ranked Division III teams as established by the final ranking and the ranking preceding the final ranking.

Division I/National Collegiate: Quality Win Bonus (QWB)

- Not a separate criterion but added to RPI.
- Sliding scale (Top 20 of 60 teams for Men, Top 12 of 40 teams for Women)
- Formerly criterion was Results vs. "Teams Under Consideration" (TUC), similar to Ranked Teams.
- TUC's variously defined (Top 25/12, RPI > .500, WP > .500); required a minimum games qualifier.
- TUC criterion resulted in sharp cutoff or "cliff;" had no SOS component.

Division III and Division I/National Collegiate: Results vs. Common Opponents

- Equal-weighted by opponents instead of games for Division I/National Collegiate.

	Team A	Team B
vs Team Strong	0-1-0 (0.000)	0-3-0 (0.000)
vs Team Weak	3-0-0 (1.000)	1-0-0 (1.000)
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If game is weighted:	3-1-0 (0.750)	1-3-0 (0.250)

Division III and Division I/National Collegiate: Head-to-Head Results

- Each game counts one point in criteria comparison for Division I/National Collegiate.