

2025-26 NCAA DIVISION I WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SELECTION CRITERIA GRID (UPDATED October 2, 2025)

Area	Current Rule	Additional Comments
Eligible Matches	Only results from <u>nontraditional</u> events that are registered in the NWCA Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) system by September 1, and contested before January 1 of the respective academic year, shall be considered for selection and seeding for the Division I Wrestling Championships.	This modification clarifies that the committee will not consider results from nontraditional matches that have become more common later in the season. This is consistent with the value the committee places on traditional formats, (dual meets, individual/dual advancement tournaments), and conference tournament participation to meet the selection criteria.
Winning Percentage	Win % is defined as Division I wins divided by total Division I matches contested at the designated weight class on the NCAA Division I starters page in TrackWrestling .	Matches against non D-I opponents do not count toward winning percentage. Matches at a lower or higher weight are also excluded from the calculation. Forfeits and medical forfeits count towards the winning percentage but do not count toward the 15-match RPI.
Minimum Number of Division I Matches for Winning Percentage	Must have a minimum of 8 Division I Matches at the designated weight class on the NCAA Division I Starters page to have a calculated winning percentage.	Wrestler with less than 8 matches would not be eligible for a pre-allocated spot for their conference. A wrestler could still be eligible for an at-large selection with less than 8-matches as long as they have two of the other standard selection criteria. The wrestler would not have a calculated winning percentage in the at-large selection comparison process.
RPI	Must have 15-Division I Matches at the designated weight class on the NCAA Division I Starters page to have a calculated RPI.	Forfeits and medical forfeits are excluded from the 15-match count. Injury defaults do count towards the 15-match minimum.

RPI	RPI is calculated by the following formula: 25% RPI winning percentage, 50% opponents RPI winning percentage and 25% opponent's opponent RPI winning percentage. The opponent's winning percentage and opponent's opponent winning percentage is also taken from division I matches at the contested weight class.	Only matches against Division I opponents at the designated weight class count towards the RPI.
Coaches Ranking	To be considered in the coaches ranking, a wrestler must have a total of 8-Division I Matches at the designated weight and one match must have occurred within 30-days of the latest ranking period.	The 8-match Division I minimum must be at the designated weight class.
Coaches Ranking	There are coach rankers at each weight class that vote. The votes are tallied and then a committee member reviews the point totals with the rankers to see if any adjustments need to be made to the rankings based on discussion.	
Definition of a Pre-Allocated Spot	A pre-allocated spot is NOT an AQ. Pre-allocated spots are spots the committee has elected to award based on established criteria. AQ's are awarded to the conference champion at each weight class.	
Earning an allocated spot for the conference	A wrestler must meet 2 of the 3 standards (Coach Rank, RPI, Win %) to earn a pre-allocated spot for the conference at the designated weight class. Pre-allocation spots will be based on all matches through Sunday, February 22.	Any dual or tournament matches after February 22 will not be used for the determination of pre-allocated spots but will be used in the calculations for the At-large selections and seeding. If a wrestler who earned a pre-allocated spot, does not compete in the conference tournament, that spot will be removed from the conference allocations and put back in the pool for at-large selections. EXCEPTION: A conference can maintain the pre-allocated spot if the wrestler who earned the spot is replaced by a wrestler who would have an RPI Rank and Winning Percentage that would have still earned a pre-allocated spot for the conference.

Minimum Number of Matches Needed to Earn a pre-allocated spot for the conference	Wrestler must have a minimum of 8 Division I Matches at the designated weight class to receive a pre-allocated spot.	A wrestler needs 8-matches to trigger winning percentage standard. A wrestler with less than 8 matches would not be eligible for the winning percentage and RPI which means they could not meet 2 of the 3 standards. A wrestler DOES NOT need 15 matches to earn an pre-allocated spot for the conference, if the wrestler meets the threshold in winning percentage and coaches rank.
Pre-allocation	The committee will allocate no more than 29 wrestlers per weight class but could allocate fewer than that.	The pre-allocations will be determined by using a sliding scale of the three standards while never going below the base of .700 winning percentage, Top 30 Coach Rank and Top 30 RPI Rank reaching up to the maximum of 29 wrestlers per weight class.
Pre-allocation Spots	The release of pre-allocated spots by conference will be Thursday, February 26.	RPI and coach rank will be released as well.
At-large consideration selection process	To be eligible for at-large consideration, a wrestler must participate at least two (2) matches in his respective conference tournament AND, meet or exceed any two of the following criteria: .700 Win%, Top 33 RPI, Top 33 Coaches Ranking, One win against a wrestler receiving automatic qualification via an earned position (pre-allocated), Qualifying event placement one below automatic qualification, earn pre-allocated spot for the conference.	