



NAIA COMPETITIVE CHEER NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEE POLICY

NATIONAL SELECTION OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Area Ranking Committees (ARCs) - Area ranking committees will consist of two Coaches from each ARC (one ARC coach will be the Executive Committee Secretary) and one out-of-area administrative member (the NAC Liaison or one of two At-Large Administrators). ARC's will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning Monday, February 2. The out-of-area ARC Administrator being involved in this part of the process allows for a better understanding of another Area that isn't their own and adds more transparency. This is not a voting position.

ARC 1 – Great Plains Athletic Conference, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, American Midwest Conference, California Pacific Conference, Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference

ARC 2 – Mid-South Conference, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, Crossroads League, Frontier Conference, River States, Great Southwest Athletic Conference

ARC 3 – Heart of America Athletic Conference, Appalachian Athletic Conference, HBCU Athletic Conference, Red River Athletic Conference, Southern States Athletic Conference

National Selection Committee (NSC) - The National Selection Committee will consist of two Coaches from each Area Ranking Committee (one ARC coach will be the Executive Committee Secretary), a representative from the National Administrative Council, and two at-large NAIA Administrators. The National Selection Committee will also select its chair through nomination and vote of the committee. The NSC Chair must be an at-large administrator or the NAC Liaison. The NSC will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning Tuesday, February 3. The NSC may not have more than two members from any conference or more than three from an ARC.

At-Large Representative - The rationale for NSC At-Large members in the selection process is to cultivate individuals on the NSC who incorporate a broad view involving multiple ARC's and consider all potentially eligible sport playing institutions. Sport personnel tasked with appointing NSC At-Large members should strive to incorporate non-coaching personnel to the role. NSC At-Large member affiliation with an out-of-area ARC is designed to create comprehension and appreciation for another ARC(s). NSC At-Large members are tasked with protecting the validity of the selection committee process. To that end, NSC At-Large members:

- Should not be involved with ARC's in which they are employed as an administrator, coach, or other role,
- Maintain neutrality as non-voting members of assigned ARC's,
- Act in the role of guide to members of their assigned ARC,
- Insist on evaluation of ARC teams based on the selection criteria as defined in sport NSC Handbooks,
- Create an atmosphere of transparency from NSC to ARC and vice-versa.

COMMITTEE ROLE:

The role of the National Selection Committee is to have oversight for the Competitive Cheer National Championship. The committee will focus on the following during the year:

1. Evaluate teams throughout the season.
2. Serve on an area ranking committee.
3. Participate on area and national committee calls.
4. Participate in the selection meeting.
5. Attend committee meetings as scheduled throughout the year.

CRITERIA FOR AT-LARGE SELECTION

The criteria which will be used by the Selection Committee for both At-Large Selection and Seeding are as follows:

Primary Criteria (No Weight or Order):

- Season Average Scores.
- Conference Championship Placement.
- Informative bi-weekly committee phone call discussions and ratings.

Secondary Criteria (No Weight or Order):

- Schedule: Strength (vs stronger teams), Variety (duals & larger meets), Length (required number of competitions not done in condensed time frame).
- Overall contest placements.
- Conference Round/Championship.
- Scoring Statistics (factoring in outlier scores, difficulty vs execution scoring).

No weight or order is given to the criteria listed above or as listed in Secondary.

ARC CALLS:

The first committee conference call for all Area Ranking Committees will be Monday, February 2 to prepare for the 2026 National Championship. The first call for the National Selection Committee will be Tuesday, February 3.

Each Area Ranking Committee will meet the Monday of any designated ratings week to evaluate the teams in each area. The National Committee will meet the Tuesday of any designated ratings week.

Each ARC will determine a Top 10 from their Area for each of the four Area ratings.

ARC AND NSC SCHEDULE (all times Central):

Day	Date	Time	Task
Monday	February 2	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #1
Tuesday	February 3	11:00am 2:00pm	NSC Call #1 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	February 16	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #2
Tuesday	February 17	11:00am 2:00pm	NSC Call #2 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	March 2	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #3
Tuesday	March 3	11:00am 2:00pm	NSC Call #3 Release of ARC Ratings
Saturday	March 14	10:00pm	Conference Tournament Deadline
Saturday	March 14	TBD by ARCs	Final ARC Call #4
Sunday	March 15	8:00am 8:01am-9:30am 10:00am 8:00pm	Final ARCs Due NAIA Prepares Grid Final NSC Call Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	March 16	6:30pm	Selection Release

Regular Season Calls (all times Central)

Mondays

10:00am Conference Ballots for each Conference Call due to the Area Chair
11:00am Conference Call for Area Committee to discuss Area rating (time may vary)
5:00pm Final ARC Rating for each ARC due to the NAIA National Office

Tuesdays

9:00am Final ARC Rating for each ARC due to the NAIA National Office
9:01-10:30 National Office Prepares Grid and Distributes to ARC Committees
11:00am Cheer National Committee Conference Call to Review
2:00pm Release of ARC's to NAIA Coaches

ARC RELEASE SCHEDULE:

February 3
February 17
March 3
March 15 Final Selection

The ARC Releases will be posted on the [Cheer Coaches' Corner](#).

NATIONAL SELECTION PROCESS

PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES:

Basic Principles for At-Large Selections:

1. At no point in the process may a member vote for a team that he/she represents as an athletic administrator or coach. A committee member from a conference office may vote for all teams that he/she represents.
2. All votes will be by confidential ballot.
3. All committee meeting discussions, votes, brackets, seeding, pairings are strictly confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the soccer committee until after the championship bracket announcement.
4. Determine the automatic qualifying teams and then select the remaining at-large teams.

SELECTION OF AT-LARGE TEAMS:

Principles:

1. Select the best available teams to fill the at-large berths.
2. There is no limit on the number of teams the committee may select from one conference or area.

Procedures:

1. Prior to the selection meeting, committee members shall prepare the following information:
 - A. A ranking of all teams within his/her area to be considered for at-large berths.
 - B. Ranking of teams within each conference within his/her area.
2. At-Large Nomination Pool
 - A. All teams are included in each Area Ranking.
 - B. Also, any team finishing first or second in their conference in the regular season will be placed in the nomination pool.
 - C. other teams mentioned during the committee's final evaluation call that do not meet the criteria will automatically be considered part of this process.
 - D. To build the At-Large Pool each committee member shall put forth a list of teams equal to the number of at-large bids being awarded plus 2 (Ex. If there are 8 at-large bids being awarded each committee member puts forth 10 teams to create the at-large pool).
3. The first ballot procedures will be conducted as follows:
 - A. Each committee member shall present information from their respective area and discuss those teams that should be considered for selection. A committee member whose team is under focused consideration may present objective data about his team but may not participate in votes regarding a team that he represents as a coach or athletic administrator.
 - B. Each member shall consider the teams recommended for at-large berths and vote for any number of teams that that are believed to be deserving of selection.
 - C. Teams that receive 75 percent (6 of 8) of the votes cast will automatically be designated as at-large selections. However, a minimum of 50 percent of the available at-large positions must be left vacant. If less than 50 percent are vacant, each committee member will then prepare a ballot, consider only those teams that received 75 percent of the votes and list in rank order a number of teams equal to the total berths available minus 50 percent and conduct a poll vote.

4. The committee will fill the remaining at-large berth as follows:
- A. All teams in the at-large pool will be considered for the remaining berths and each committee member shall vote on teams to be selected by listing the number of teams as there are berths available.
 - B. Teams receiving 75 percent of the votes will be selected at large, however no more than half of the remaining berths will be filled. If more than half of the berths are filled, a separate ballot will be conducted with only those teams' receiving 75 percent of the first vote being considered. Each committee member shall list a number of teams equal to the number of berths remaining. A poll vote will be taken, which would involve each committee member ranking the teams under consideration and a point value would be given to the ranking with the top team receiving a number of points equal to the number of teams being considered and each team thereafter would be given points in descending order.
 - C. Steps a and b will be repeated with each committee member voting for the same number of teams as berths that are available, and no more than half of the berths are to be filled.
 - D. At any time during the process, the committee may determine that a team be eliminated from the pool. To eliminate a team, at least 75 percent of the votes would be required.
 - E. Whenever a consensus cannot be reached, the chair may call for a poll vote. During poll votes, 75 percent of votes are not required, and a simple majority will determine the team for an at-large selection.
 - F. Each team must have a minimum of four singles and two doubles to participate. If a postseason qualifier or at-large qualifier does not have a team of at least four singles and two doubles, that team's place in the tournament shall be made available to the next team 'in' as determined by the National Selection Committee.

SEEDING TEAMS FOR THE PRELIMINARY ROUND:

1. All At-Large selections will be placed in order, through random draw, and will be the first group to perform in the preliminary round.
2. All Automatic Qualifying teams will be placed in order, through random draw, and will be the second group to perform in the preliminary round.