



NAIA Men's Basketball National Selection Committee Policy

NATIONAL SELECTION OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCESS:

Area Ranking Committees (ARCs) – Area Ranking Committees will consist of a representative from each conference grouping in that local area as well as an at-large representative from the National Selection Committee. ARCs will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning Monday, January 20. The out-of-area ARC being involved in this part of the process allows for a better understanding of another ARC that isn't their own and adds more transparency.

East - Appalachian Athletic Conference, Mid-South Conference, Southern States Athletic Conference, The Sun Conference

Midwest - American Midwest Conference, Great Plains Athletic Conference, Heart of America Athletic Conference, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference

North - Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Crossroads League, River States Conference, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference

South - Continental Athletic Conference, HBCU Athletic Conference, Red River Athletic Conference, Sooner Athletic Conference,

West - California Pacific Conference, Cascade Collegiate Conference, Frontier Conference, Great Southwest Athletic Conference

ARC Chair Role Description – One voter in each ARC will represent that group of voters and will serve as the chair of that group who also will represent the ARC on the National Selection Committee. The NAIA-MBB Coaches Executive Committee shall assist in appointing the chair of each ARC.

National Selection Committee (NSC) – The National Selection Committee will consist of one representative from each Area Ranking Committee, a representative from the National Administrative Council (NAC), a member of the NAIA-NABC Executive Committee, four at-large members connected with NAIA basketball but not a current coach, and one At-Large Coach that the Past-President of the NAIA-NABC Executive Committee is given priority to fill. The NSC will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning Tuesday, January 20.

- No more than two members per conference and no more than three members per area
- Nominees for at-large positions provided by the Men's Basketball Coaches Executive Committee
- At least one at-large representative must be a current NAIA Administrator (AD or Commissioner)

The National Selection Committee will select its chair through nomination and vote of the committee. The chair position must be filled with an at-large administrator or NAC liaison. Only current NAIA administrators – defined as Athletics Directors, Conference Commissioners, Sports Information directors, or other designated NAIA institutional or conference administrators – are eligible to serve as Chair of a National Selection Committee.

At-Large Representative Role Description –

- 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 of the Men's Basketball National Championship and is responsible for the appropriate selection of at-large qualifiers and seeding of the National Championship field. The committee will focus on the following throughout the season:

1. Evaluate teams throughout the season.
2. Serve as a chair and/or at-large representative of an Area Ranking Committee.
3. Participate on all ARC and National Selection Committee Calls.
4. Participate in the National Selection Committee meeting.
5. Attend National Selection Committee meetings as scheduled throughout the year.

CRITERIA FOR AT-LARGE SELECTION:

The criteria which will be used by the National Selection Committee for both At-Large Selection and Seeding are as follows. No weight or order is given to the criteria.

Primary Criteria (No Weight or Order)

- Area Rating
- NAIA RPI
- Quadrant Records
- Winning Percentage

Secondary Criteria (No Weight or Order)

- Conference Record
- Common Opponents
- Head-to-Head Results
- Net Efficiency
- Strength of Schedule

Additional Information Considered

- Home/Visitor/Neutral
- Record in last 10 games

ARC CALLS:

The first conference call for the 2025-26 season for all Area Ranking Committees will be on Monday, January 19. The first call for the National Selection Committee will be Tuesday, January 20.

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

Each ARC rater will submit only a Top 16 (for Areas with four conferences) or Top 12 (for Areas with three conferences) to their Area Chair for each of the four Area ratings.

Schedule of Calls *(all times CST)*

*Jan. 19-20

*Feb. 2-3

*Feb. 16-17

*Mar. 3-4

**ARC Rankings will be released to NAIA Coaches*

Monday – ARC Conference Calls

10 AM Conference Ballots for each conference call due to ARC Chair

11 AM Conference Call for ARC to discuss Area rating

5 PM Final ARC Rating for each ARC due to NAIA National Office

Tuesday – National Selection Committee Conference Calls

9 AM National Office prepares grid and distributes to Area Committees

11 AM National Selection Committee conference call to review

1 PM Release of ARC to NAIA Coaches

ARC RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Wednesday, March 5, 2026

RPI RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Monday, December 8, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025

Monday, January 5, 2026

Monday, January 12, 2026

Monday, January 19, 2026

Monday, January 26, 2026

Monday, February 2, 2026

Monday, February 9, 2026

Monday, February 16, 2026

Monday, February 23, 2026

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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 a confidential ballot.
3. All committee meeting discussions, votes, brackets, seeding, pairings are strictly confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the basketball committee until after the championship bracket announcement.

Basic Procedures Considered in the Following Order:

1. Determine the automatic qualifying teams
2. Select the remaining at-large teams
3. Place all qualifying teams in rank order by seed
4. Place the teams into the championship bracket according to established criteria
 - a. Seed
 - b. Geographic Location
 - c. Financial Considerations

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 with an RPI ranking of 80 or better will be placed in the nomination pool.
 - 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 aforementioned criteria will automatically be considered part of this process.
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 he believes are deserving of selection.
 - c. Teams that receive 70 percent (9 of 12) 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 70 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 70 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 70 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. In order to eliminate a team, at least 70 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, 70 percent of votes are not required and a simple majority will determine the team for at-large selection.

Seeding of Teams:

1. Teams are seeded in groups – 16 No. 1s, 16 No. 2s, 16 No. 3s and 16 No. 4s.
2. The committee shall use the same criteria for selection to the tournament for seeding the tournament.
3. The committee will engage in votes to determine the seeding of each grouping (i.e. after the No. 2s group has been determined, rank the No. 2s in order while keeping bracketing criteria in line with geographic location, conference affiliation, etc.)

Placing Teams in Bracket Principles:

1. The final seeding bracket will be determined based upon the following prioritized criteria:
 - a. Geographical location of teams
 - b. Financial considerations
 - c. Seed

2. Every attempt will be made to not pair conference teams in the opening round pairings. Based upon the pairings and selection criteria above, this may be unavoidable.

ANALYTICS:

Men's Basketball NAIA RPI:

The NAIA Men's Basketball Analytic, available to the Selection Committee, is made up of the following:

1. Winning Percentage
 - Games Won/Total Games
2. RPI (Ratings Percentage Index)
 - $WP (0.30) + OWP (0.50) + OOWP (0.20)$
 - WP = Winning Percentage
 - OWP = Opponent's Winning Percentage
 - OOWP = Opponent's Opponent's Winning Percentage
3. SOS (Strength of Schedule)
 - $OWP (.67) + OOWP (0.33)$
 - OWP = Opponent's Winning Percentage
 - OOWP = Opponent's Opponent's Winning Percentage
4. Net Efficiency (Offensive Efficiency – Defensive Efficiency)
 - Offensive Efficiency – Total Point/Total # of Possessions
 - $\text{Total \# of Possessions} = \text{FG Attempts} - \text{Off. Rebounds} + \text{TO} + \text{FT Attempts}$
(0.475)
 - Defensive Efficiency – Opponent's Total Points/Total # of Opponent's Possessions
 - $\text{Total \% of Opponent's Possessions} = \text{Opponent's FG Attempts} - \text{Opponents Offensive Rebounds} + \text{Opponent's Turnovers} + \text{Opponent's FT Attempts}$
(0.475)

Men's Basketball Quadrant Records:

The RPI ranking of the teams and location of each game will be the two items factored into the determination of which quadrant a result will be assigned. Games will be assigned to quadrants based on the following chart:

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Home	1-45	46-90	91-135	136+
Neutral	1-55	56-105	106-150	150+
Away	1-65	66-120	121-165	166+

**The values in each box are an opponent's RPI rank*