



NAIA MEN'S and WOMEN'S TENNIS 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 in that local area as well as an at-large representative from the National Selection Committee. ARC's will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning Monday, March 16. The out-of-area ARC 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.

Women's ARC's

North – Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference and Crossroads League

South – Continental Athletic Conference, Southern States Athletic Conference, The Sun Conference, and Red River Athletic Conference

Midwest – Heart of America Athletic Conference, Great Southwest Athletic Conference, Great Plains Athletic Conference, and Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference

East – Appalachian Athletic Conference, Mid-South Conference, and River States Conference

Men's ARC's

North – Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference and Crossroads League

South – Continental Athletic Conference, HBCU Athletic Conference, Southern States Athletic Conference, and The Sun Conference

Midwest – Heart of America Athletic Conference, Great Plains Athletic Conference, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, and Great Southwest Athletic Conference

East – Appalachian Athletic Conference, Mid-South Conference, and River States Conference

ARC Chair - 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-TC 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, the President of the NAIA-TCA Executive Committee, 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, March 17.

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 Tennis National Championship. The committee will focus on the following during the year:

1. Evaluate teams throughout the season.
2. Serve as a chair and/or member of 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):

- UTR Computer Ratings
- ITA Computer Ratings
- ARC Ratings
- Head-to-Head
- Record vs. Top 15 in UTR Ratings

Secondary Criteria (No Weight or Order):

- Record vs. 16-30 in UTR Ratings
- Record vs. 31-45 in UTR Ratings
- Results vs. Non-NAIA Competition (NCAA Division I, Top 25 NCAA Division II and III)

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, March 16 to prepare for the 2026 National Championship. The first call for the National Selection Committee will be Tuesday, March 17.

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 Area rater will submit a Top 8 (for Areas with three conferences) or Top 10 (for Areas with four conferences) to their Area Chair for each of the four Area ratings.

ARC AND NSC SCHEDULE (all times Central):

Day	Date	Time	Task
Monday	March 16	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #1
Tuesday	March 17	11:00am 12:00pm 1:00pm	Men's NSC Call #1 Women's NSC Call #1 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	March 30	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #2
Tuesday	March 31	11:00am 12:00pm 1:00pm	Men's NSC Call #2 Women's NSC Call #2 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	April 13	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #3
Tuesday	April 14	11:00am 12:00pm 1:00pm	Men's NSC Call #3 Women's NSC Call #3 Release of ARC Ratings
Saturday	April 25	10:00pm	Conference Tournament Deadline
Saturday	April 25	TBD by ARCs	Men's Final ARC Call #4
Sunday	April 26	9:00am 9:01am-10:30am 2:30pm 8:00pm	Men's Final ARCs Due NAIA Prepares Grid Men's Final NSC Call #4 Release of ARC Ratings
Sunday	April 26	TBD by ARCs	Women's Final ARC Call #4
Monday	April 27	8:00am 8:01am-9:30am 10:00am 4:00pm	Women's Final ARCs Due NAIA Prepares Grid Women's Final NSC Call #4 Release of ARC Ratings
Tuesday	April 28	3:00pm	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 Men's National Committee Conference Call to Review
12:00pm Women's National Committee Conference Call to Review
2:00pm Release of ARC's to NAIA Coaches

ARC RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, March 17 – Men's and Women's
Tuesday, March 31 – Men's and Women's
Tuesday, April 14 – Men's and Women's
Sunday, April 26 – Men's Final Selection
Monday, April 27 – Women's Final Selection

UTR and ITA RATINGS RELEASE SCHEDULE:

UTR Schedule:

After January 1 – Power 6 Rankings available
February 18 – Collegiate Team Rankings
February 25 – Collegiate Team Rankings
March 4 – Collegiate Team Rankings
March 11 – Collegiate Team Rankings
March 18 – Collegiate Team Rankings
March 25 – Collegiate Team Rankings
April 1 – Collegiate Team Rankings
April 8 – Collegiate Team Rankings
April 15 – Collegiate Team Rankings
April 22 – Collegiate Team Rankings

ITA Schedule:

November 10 – National & Regional Singles/Doubles
January 5 – National Team
February 2 – National Team
February 23 – National Team
March 9 – National Team/Singles/Doubles
March 23 – National Team/Singles/Doubles
April 6 – National Team/Singles/Doubles
April 20 – National Team/Singles/Doubles
April 27 – National Team/Singles/Doubles

The RPI update will be posted on the [Tennis 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.

Basic Procedures Considered in the Following Order:

1. Determine the automatic qualifying teams and then select the remaining at-large teams.
2. Place the teams into the championship bracket.

NOTE: Every effort should be made to separate conference teams from playing each other in the 2nd round. Depending on the number of teams from a given conference, this may be unavoidable.

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.
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 OF TEAMS:

- 1. Teams are seeded 1 through 24.
- 2. The committee shall use the same criteria for selection to the tournament for seeding the tournament.

PLACING TEAMS IN BRACKET PRINCIPLES

- 1. Every attempt will be made to not pair conference teams in the first and second rounds. Based upon the pairings and selection criteria above, this may be unavoidable.