



NAIA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL 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, October 6. 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.

West – Cascade Collegiate Conference, Frontier Conference, and Great Southwest Athletic Conference.

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

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

South – Red River Athletic Conference, Sooner Athletic Conference, HBCU Athletic Conference, and Continental Athletic Conference.

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

ARC Chair - Each ARC will be appointed a chair of that group, who will also represent the ARC on the National Selection Committee. The ARC chair will be selected through a nomination and vote of the ARC members.

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, a member of the NAIA-WVB Coaches Executive Committee, one Past President, and three 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, October 7. The National Selection Committee will select its chair through nomination and vote of the committee.

- No more than two members per conference and no more than three members per area
- Nominees for at-large positions provided by the Women's Volleyball Executive Committee.

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 - 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 Women's Volleyball 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):

- NAIA RPI
 - 25% winning percentage, 50% opponent's winning percentage, 25% opponent's-opponent's winning percentage.
- Massey Ratings.
- NAIA Strength of Schedule.
 - 67% opponent's winning percentage, 33% opponent's-opponent's winning percentage.
- Results vs all teams under consideration for the National Tournament (including all teams that are represented in the final ARC Rankings as well as any team that finished first or second in their conference.

Secondary Criteria (No Weight or Order):

- ARC Information
- Common Opponents
- Head-to-Head
- Last 10 Matches
- Conference Record

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, October 6 to prepare for the 2025 National Championship. The first call for the National Selection Committee will be Tuesday, October 7.

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 may submit up to a maximum of a Top 16 to their Area Chair for each of the five Area ratings.

ARC AND NSC SCHEDULE (all times Central):

Day	Date	Time	Task
Monday	October 6	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #1
Tuesday	October 7	11:00am 1:00pm	NSC Call #1 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	October 20	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #2
Tuesday	October 21	11:00am 1:00pm	NSC Call #2 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	November 3	TBD by ARCs	ARC Call #3
Tuesday	November 4	11:00am 1:00pm	NSC Call #3 Release of ARC Ratings
Saturday	November 15	11:59pm TBD – ARCs	Conference Tournament Deadline ARC Call #4
Sunday	November 16	8:00am 8:01am-10:00am 10:00am 6:00pm	Final ARCs Due NAIA Prepares Grid NSC Call #4 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	November 17	4:00pm	Selection Release

Regular Season Calls (all times Central)

Mondays

10:00am Conference Ballots for each Conference Call due to the Area Chair
12:00pm 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 National Office Prepares Grid and Distributes to ARC Committees
11:00am National Selection Committee Conference Call to discuss Area Ratings
1:00pm Release of ARCs to NAIA Coaches

ARC RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Tuesday, November 4, 2025
Monday, November 16, 2025

RPI RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Monday, November 16, 2025

The RPI update will be posted on the [Women's Volleyball 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 all qualifying teams in rank order by seed.
3. Place the teams into the championship bracket according to established criteria.
 - A. Geographic Location
 - B. Finance
 - C. Seed

Note: Every effort should be made to separate conference teams from playing each other in the opening round.

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/her 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/she believes are deserving of selection.
 - C. Teams that receive 75 percent 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 at-large selection.

SEEDING OF TEAMS:

- 1. Teams will be seeded in pods of four during selection and seeding.
- 2. The Selection Committee will seed the top 4 teams first, then seed the bottom 4 teams.
- 3. Create the first wave of Opening Round Pairings from the top 4 seeds and the bottom 4 seeds.
- 4. Steps 2 and 3 will be repeated for the rest of the seeds (groups of 4 at a time until all seeds are filled).
- 5. The committee shall use the same criteria as selecting the tournament to seed the tournament.

PLACING TEAMS IN BRACKET PRINCIPLES

1. The seeding of teams will not be shared with the committee.
2. After all seeds have been selected, there will be a short break and then the non-coaches on the committee will reconvene to assist in the final review of the bracket.
3. Every attempt will be made to not pair conference teams in the opening round. Based upon the pairings and selection criteria above, this may be unavoidable.

ANALYTICS:

NAIA RPI (Ratings Percentage Index):

- $WP (.25) + OWP (.5) + OOWP (.25)$
 - WP = Winning Percentage
 - OWP = Opponents' Winning Percentage
 - OOWP = Opponent's, Opponent's Winning Percentage

SOS (Strength of Schedule):

- $OWP (.67) + OOWP (.33)$
 - OWP = Opponents' Winning Percentage
 - OOWP = Opponent's, Opponent's Winning Percentage