



NAIA Men's Volleyball Selection Committee Protocol

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. ARCs will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning **Monday, March 9th**. 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 also adds more transparency.

East – Appalachian Athletic Conference, River States Conference, Continental Athletic Conference

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

North – Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference

West – California Pacific 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 ARC members will vote to appoint 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-MVCA Executive Committee and three At-Large administrators connected with NAIA Volleyball.

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 Athletic 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 member 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 Men's Volleyball Selection Committee is to have oversight for the Men's Volleyball 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 in area and national committee calls.
4. Participate in the selection meeting.
5. Attend committee meetings as schedule throughout the year.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

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

Primary Criteria (No weight or order)

- Massey Ratings
- NAIA RPI (25% Winner Percentage, 50% Opponent's Winning Percentage, 25% Opponent's Opponent's Winning Percentage)
- Area Ratings
- Head-to-Head from any match in the season
- Common Opponents from any match in the season
- Win/Loss vs Top 15 Massey Ratings

Secondary Criteria (No weight or order)

- Last 5 Matches
- Results vs all teams under consideration for the National Tournament (includes all teams that are represented in final ARC Rankings as well as any team that finished first or second in their conference)

ARC CALLS:

The first committee conference call to prepare for the 2026 season for all Area Ranking Committees will be **Monday, March 9th**. The first call for the National Selection Committee will be on **Tuesday, March 10th**.

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

Each ARC rater will submit a Top 4 (for areas with two conferences) to their ARC Chair for each of the four Area ratings.

Schedule of calls *(all times in CT)*

March 9-10*

March 23-24*

April 6-7*

April 19-20* - Final

*Released to NAIA Coaches

Monday – ARC Conference Calls

10:00 am Conference Ballots for each Conference Call due to the Area Chair

11:00 am Conference Call for Area Committee to discuss area rating

Tuesday – National Selection Committee Conference Calls

9:00 am Final ARC Rating for each area due to the NAIA National Office. National Office prepares grid and distributes to Area Committees

11:00 am National Selection Committee conference call to review

1:00 pm Release of ARC to NAIA coaches

NATIONAL SELECTION PROCESS

BASIC PRINCIPALS AND PROCEDURES:

Basic Principles for At-Large Selection

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, and pairings are strictly confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the Men's Volleyball National Selection 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 pool play. 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 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 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/her team but may not participate in votes regarding a team that he/she 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 75% (6 of 8) of the votes cast will automatically be designated as at-large selections. However, a minimum of 50% of the available at-large positions must be left vacant. If less than 50% are vacant, each committee member will then prepare a ballot, consider only those teams that received 75% of the votes and list in rank order a number of teams equal to the total berths available minus 50% 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% 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% 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 75% 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% of votes are not required and a simple majority will determine the team for at-large selection.

SEEDING OF TEAMS:

- 1. Teams are seeded 1 through 12.
- 2. The committee shall use the same criteria for selection to the tournament for seeding the tournament.

PLACING TEAMS IN BRACKET PRINCIPLES:

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.