



NAIA MEN'S SOCCER 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.

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

Midwest – American Midwest Conference, Great Plains Athletic Conference, Heart of America 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, Great Southwest Athletic Conference

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

ARC Chair Term Limits – Each ARC chair shall serve a maximum three-year consecutive term if they are selected by their ARC as its chair. If a second consecutive term of the current ARC chair is requested by the ARC, it can be granted if approved by the NAIA Men's Soccer Coaches Association.

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), the President of the Soccer Coaches Association, three members connected with NAIA Soccer but not a current coach and an at-large coach. The at-large coach must come from a different Area every year. The NSC will meet, via conference call, every other week beginning Tuesday, October 7.

- No more than two members per conference and no more than three members per area
- Nominees for at-large positions provided by the Soccer Coaches Officers
- At least one at-large 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.

At-Large Term Limits – At-Large committee members shall serve a maximum five-year consecutive term.

Term Limit Expiration - Term limit window shall rotate amongst ARC's as to allow for some consistency amongst committee members from year-to-year. For example:

(3-Year ARC Term Max, 5-Year At-Large Terms):

2025 – At Large Administrator, East ARC
2026 – At Large Administrator, West ARC, South ARC
2027 – At Large Administrator, Midwest ARC, North ARC
2028 – At Large NAC Member, East ARC
2029 – West ARC, South ARC
2030 – Midwest ARC, North ARC

COMMITTEE ROLE:

The role of the National Soccer Selection Committee is to have oversight for the Soccer 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):

- Area Rating
- Overall Record/Winning Percentage
- Record vs. 1-30 RPI (final calculation)
- NAIA RPI
- Strength of Schedule

Secondary Criteria (No Weight or Order):

- Head to Head
- Common Opponents
- Conference Record
- Record vs. 31-50 RPI (final calculation)

Additional Information Considered:

- Conference/non-conference
- Home/Visitor/Neutral
- Opponent
- Opponent's record
- Score
- Team schedule

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 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 five Area ratings.

ARC AND NSC SCHEDULE:

Day	Date	Time	Task
Tuesday	September 23	11 AM (CT)	NSC Call & Kick-Off Meeting
Monday	October 6	11 AM (CT)	ARC Call #1
Tuesday	October 7	11 AM (CT)	NSC Call Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	October 20	11 AM (CT)	ARC Call #2
Tuesday	October 21	11 AM (CT) 1 PM (CT)	NSC Call #2 Release of ARC Ratings
Monday	November 3	11 AM (CT)	ARC Call #3

Tuesday	November 4	11 AM (CT) 1 PM (CT)	NSC Call #3 Release of ARC Ratings
Wednesday	November 12	11:59 PM (CT)	Conference Tournament Deadline
Thursday	November 13	TBD – ARC Chair to Schedule	ARC Call #4 Release of ARC Ratings
Thursday	November 13	10 AM (CT)	National Selection Meeting
Saturday	November 15	4:45 PM (CT)	Selection Release

Monday (all times Central)

11:00 AM Conference Ballots for each Conference Call due to the Area Chair
12:00 PM Conference Call for Area Committee to discuss Area rating

Tuesday (all times Central)

9:00 AM Final ARC rating for each Area due to the NAIA National Office
9:01–9:30 AM National Office Prepares Grid and Distributes to NSC
11:00 AM National Committee Conference Call to Review
1:00 PM Release of ARC to NAIA Coaches

ARC RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Tuesday, November 4, 2025
Thursday, November 13, 2025

RPI RELEASE SCHEDULE:

Monday, September 22, 2025
Monday, September 29, 2025
Monday, October 6, 2025
Monday, October 13, 2025
Monday, October 20, 2025
Monday, October 27, 2025
Monday, November 3, 2025
Thursday, November 13, 2025

The RPI update will be posted on the [Men's Soccer 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

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 60 or better will be placed in the nomination pool.
 - b) Also, any conference regular-season champion and runner-up will be placed in the nomination pool.
 - c) Other teams mentioned during the committee's final evaluation call.
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 up to the number of at-large berths available that they believe are deserving of selection.
- c) Teams who receive 70% (7 of 10) 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, committee members will then prepare a ballot, consider only those teams that received 70% 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 70% 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% 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% of the votes would be required.
- e) Whenever a consensus can't be reached, the chair may call for a poll vote. During poll votes, 70% 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 order (1-40).
- 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 team, if necessary.

PLACING TEAMS IN BRACKET PRINCIPLES

- 1. The final seeding bracket will be determined based upon the following prioritized criteria:
 - a) Geographic location
 - b) Finance

c) Final Rating

2. Every attempt will be made to not pair conference teams in the First & Second Round pairings. 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