NAIA Men's and Women's Bowling National Selection Committee Policy

The NAIA Men's and Women's Bowling National Selection Committee (NSC) serves a critical role in identifying and seeding the teams that will participate in the NAIA Men's and Women's Bowling National Championship. The integrity of this process depends upon a consistent application of selection criteria, transparent procedures, and a commitment to evaluating teams based on objective data and informed discussion.

This policy document establishes the structure, responsibilities, and operating procedures of the Men's and Women's Bowling National Selection Committee and Area Rating Committees (ARCs).

ARC and NSC Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Task
Monday	January 11	10 AM (CT)	ARC Member Training
Tuesday	January 26	TBD	ARC Call #1
Wednesday	January 27	11 AM (CT)	NSC Call #1
Wednesday	January 27	1 PM (CT)	Release of ARC Ratings and NSC Poll #1
Tuesday	February 9	TBD	ARC Call #2
Wednesday	February 10	11 AM (CT)	NSC Call #2
Wednesday	February 10	1 PM (CT)	Release of ARC Ratings and NSC Poll #2
Tuesday	February 23	TBD	ARC Call #3
Wednesday	February 24	11 AM (CT)	NSC Call #3
Wednesday	February 24	1 PM (CT)	Release of ARC Ratings and NSC Poll #3
Monday	March 1	11:59 PM (CT)	Regular Season Competition Deadline
Monday	March 8	TBD 1 PM (CT)	ARC Call #4 Release of ARC Ratings #4
Monday	March 8	9 AM (CT)	National Selection Meeting
Tuesday	March 9	TBD	Selection Release

RPI Release Schedule:
Friday, October 23, 2026
Friday, November 20, 2026

Friday, January 22, 2027
Friday, February 5, 2027
Friday, February 19, 2027
Friday, March 5, 2027

National Selection Committee Structure
The National Selection Committee will consist of seven representatives, the Men's and Women's Bowling NAC sport liaison and six at-large members. Eligible at-large members may include athletic directors, assistant/associate athletic directors, senior women leaders, conference administrators, sports information directors, athletics communicators, other qualified administrators, retired administrators, or retired coaches. Individuals who currently serve as a coach in the sport are not eligible for appointment to the National Selection Committee, regardless of any concurrent administrative role.

Amanda Haverstick, Director of Athletics/SWL, SCAD-Savannah (Ga.)	Chair
Eric Ward, Commissioner, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference	NAC Liaison
Preston English, Assistant Athletic Director/Communications & Operations, Park-Gilbert University (Ariz.)	At-Large
Connor Leppink, Deputy Athletic Director, Aquinas College (Mich.)	At-Large
Kevin Paulus, Assistant Athletic Director-External Operations, Missouri Baptist University	At-Large
Mark Hoffhines, Assistant Commissioner for Information & Communications, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference	At-Large

Guidelines for the structure of the National Selection Committee

- No more than two members may represent the same conference, and no more than three may come from the same Area Ranking Committee (ARC).
- The National Office will provide nominees for at-large positions from individuals who have expressed interest in serving on the sport national selection committee.
- The National Selection Committee in conjunction with the National Office will nominate its chair, subject to final approval by the NAC.

National Selection Committee Roles and Responsibilities
- Have oversight for the NAIA Men's and Women's Bowling National Championship
- Evaluate teams throughout the season
- Serve as an ARC Chair
- Serve as chair of the National Selection Committee
- Participate in all ARC and National Selection Committee meetings
- Participate in the at-large selection and seeding of teams

National Selection Committee Chair

- Set National Selection Committee agendas in coordination with the NAIA National Office Sport Manager.
- Facilitate all committee meetings.
- Retain voting rights during all committee meetings
- Are expected to exercise restraint and focus on criteria-based facilitation rather than advocacy.

National Selection Committee At-Large Representatives

- 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 noncoaching 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.

National Selection Committee ARC Chair

- Serve as non-voting members of the Area Rating Committee (ARC).
- Responsible for facilitating ARC meetings, ensuring discussions remain productive, objective, and aligned with established policies and procedures.
- Expected to recognize off-standard behavior, ask effective and probing questions, and escalate concerns or procedural issues when necessary.
- Should not oversee an ARC in which they have a direct institutional or conference affiliation to maintain neutrality and avoid conflicts of interest.
- Serve as neutral facilitators whose primary responsibility is to support the integrity, consistency, and fairness of the selection process.
- Work in collaboration with the National Selection Committee to ensure ARC recommendations and discussions are conducted in accordance with NAIA policies and selection criteria.

Area Ranking Committee (ARC) Structure

The Area Ranking Committee (ARC) serves as the primary body responsible for evaluating teams within its geographic area and providing recommendations to the National Selection Committee (NSC) throughout the season. ARC membership consists of one coach representative from each conference within the Area and an appointed ARC Chair.

ARC Alignments

East – Mid-South Conference, Southern State Athletic Conference (SSAC)
Midwest – Heart of America Athletic Conference, Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC), Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC)

North – River States Conference, Wolverine-Hooser Athletic Conference (WHAC)
West – Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC), Crossroads League

Expectations of ARC Members

- Exercise impartial judgment and avoid advocacy solely for their own institution or conference.
- Be prepared for meetings by reviewing all provided materials in advance.
- Respect differing viewpoints and contribute to a collaborative committee environment.
- Uphold the integrity, transparency, and credibility of the ranking and selection process.

Responsibilities of ARC Members

- Represent the interests of the conference while maintaining an objective, national perspective focused on the best interests of the sport and the NAIA.
- Attend and actively participate in all scheduled ARC meetings and conference calls.
- Review team performance data, records, results, and applicable selection criteria prior to each meeting.
- Engage in professional and constructive discussion regarding team evaluations and rankings.
- Submit rankings and recommendations in accordance with established timelines and procedures.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding ARC discussions, rankings, votes, and committee deliberations.
- Identify and disclose any actual or perceived conflicts of interest and recuse themselves when appropriate.
- Communicate relevant ranking and selection process information to their conference membership when requested.
- Support the consistent application of approved ranking and selection criteria across the Area.
- Assist in ensuring accuracy of team information and records considered by the committee.

Criteria For Selection

Once automatic qualifiers are determined, the NSC will consider the next top 12 teams on RPI for At-Large nominations. The criteria which will be used by the NSC for both at-large selection and seeding are as follows:

Primary

- Head-to-Head (with three or more common tournaments)
- Winning Percentage against the 12 teams up for at-large
- Winning Percentage against the Automatic Qualifiers
- Winning Percentage against the National Championship Field

ARC Rankings & Methodology

Throughout the season, there will be four scheduled ARC and National Selection Committee (NSC) meetings. ARC meetings will be conducted on the Monday of the first three scheduled meeting dates. ARC ratings will be published following the NSC meeting during the week.

Prior to each ARC meeting, each ARC member (excluding the ARC Chair) will submit a ranking of teams within their ARC. There is no maximum limit on the number of teams that may be included in an ARC ranking.

- Individual rankings submitted by ARC members & tabulated by ARC Chair using a point-based system prior to ARC call.
- Initial results shared with the ARC.
- Guided discussion to identify anomalies, close groupings, or criteria-based concerns.
- Adjustments made by consensus where appropriate.
- Final tabulation becomes the official ARC rating.

National Selection Committee Polls

The National Selection Committee (NSC) will compile and release a national poll in conjunction with each ARC rating period to provide a transparent snapshot of teams under consideration for postseason selection.

Poll Structure

- The poll will begin with a straight vote of the NSC members to generate an initial ranking grid.
- The initial grid will be distributed to all committee members prior to discussion.
- Committee members will review the results alongside the approved primary and secondary selection criteria.
- Discussion will focus on closely grouped teams, inconsistencies with established criteria, and areas where significant disagreement exists among committee members.
- Following discussion, adjustments may be made by committee consensus before the poll is finalized.

Published Poll

- Men's and Women's Bowling polls will rank and publish the Top 12 teams nationally.
- Polls will be released midweek to avoid overlap with upcoming competition and provide consistency throughout the season.

Frequency

- National polls will be conducted in conjunction with the established ARC rating schedule.
- The final ARC rating immediately preceding the selection process will not include an NSC poll, allowing the committee maximum flexibility to evaluate the complete body of work and apply all selection criteria during final postseason selections.

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. Rankings, selections, and poll discussions are grounded in established primary and secondary criteria, ensuring decisions are driven by objective data while allowing limited discussion to provide appropriate context and address unique circumstances.
3. All votes will be by confidential ballot.

4. All committee meeting discussions, votes, brackets, seeding, pairings are strictly confidential and should not be shared with anyone outside of the football 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.

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 ARC
   b. Also, any conference regular-season and runner-up will be placed in the nomination pool
   c. Other teams mentioned during the committee's final evaluation that do not meet the aforementioned criteria will automatically be considered part of the 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 up to the number of at-large berths available that they believe are deserving of selection.
   c. Teams who receive 70% 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% (5 of 7) 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 give 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 1-12 in groups of four:
   a. Seeds 1-4
   b. Seeds 5-8
   c. Seeds 9-12
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.

NAIA RPI (Ratings Percentage Index):

- WP (.30) + OWP (.40) + OOWP (.30)
  - WP = Winning Percentage
  - OWP = Opponents' Winning Percentage
  - OOWP = Opponent's Opponent's Winning Percentage