

**COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING DIVISION II
SELECTION CRITERIA**
(Revised 8/18/2015)

1. Do regional advisory committees (RACs) and national sport committees have to use the “required selection criteria?”

Yes, all Division II team sports must use these criteria in the ranking and selection process. After a lengthy review, it was determined that these core criteria will provide consistency across all team sports.

2. Should RACs and national sport committees count columns in the score reporting system when ranking or selecting teams? For example, if team A wins three columns and Team B wins two columns, does this mean that Team A should be ranked ahead of Team B?

No, committees are expected to use team sheets and the score reporting system to evaluate teams. Committees must look behind the numbers and evaluate the total body of work as opposed to “counting columns.”

3. Are there additional selection criteria that may be used? If so, how many may be selected?

Yes, each sport committee has the option to identify up to three additional sport specific selection criteria, subject to approval by the Championships Committee. These additional sport specific criteria are subject to review every three years and require the approval of the Championships Committee even if they remain unchanged from the previous three-year period.

4. One of the options for additional criteria is record against ranked teams. How do you define ranked teams?

A ranked team is a team that is ranked in an NCAA-published weekly regional ranking. *Unlike in previous years, once a team has been ranked, it remains a “ranked team” for the remainder of the season.* Rankings during the mock, practice and pre-published calls are not taken into consideration. In addition, teams ranked in various external polls (AFCA, AVCA, DII Football, etc.) are not included this definition.

There are some drawbacks in using results against ranked teams. If Team A is ranked in week one but then loses its remaining games, any team that beat Team A early in the season could potentially be rewarded for those wins. However, since rankings not conducted until late in the season, it is anticipated that teams will not make the initial ranking if they have not had some significant success.

5. Many of the criteria appear to be objective criteria. Is there any room for subjectivity?

The national governing sport committees focus on the objective criteria for selections. If more comparisons are needed once the whole body of work has been analyzed, the national governing sports committee may consider subjective selection criteria as long as it is within the context of the objective selection criteria.

6. Do the regional advisory committees have any real authority?

The regional advisory committees serve in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to the national sport committees on regional rankings. However, these recommendations are not binding. The national sport committees have the final authority in the ranking process.

7. Does the contiguous states principle still apply to rankings?

Yes, the continuous states policies still are in effect. The score reporting system is programmed in such a way that any contests between teams in contiguous states, as defined by the Division II Championships Committee,

will automatically be treated as in-region contests in the system.

8. If an institution does not have head-to-head competition during the regular season, how does this affect the rankings for this team?

Although head-to-head competition is listed as a selection criterion, teams that do not have any head-to-head results will not be penalized and this category will not be evaluated in the selection process for this institution.

9. If the eighth ranked team defeats the top-ranked team, will these teams reverse positions in the rankings?

Not necessarily, head-to-head competition is most commonly evaluated when two institutions are closely ranked. The national sport committee must still evaluate the total body of work.

10. What institutions do not have any 'common opponent' results?

Although results against common opponents is listed as a selection criterion, teams that do not have any common opponents will not be penalized and this category will not be evaluated in the selection process for these institutions.

11. Are conference standings a part of the selection criteria consideration?

No, conference standings are not considered or discussed during selections unless an institution is designated the automatic qualifier by the conference.

12. Can a conference opponent count as a non-conference opponent in the in-region category?

No, the selection criteria only consider non-conference contests against those institutions from other conferences. The data does not include a conference opponent designated as a non-conference contest for selection purposes.

13. What tie breakers are used within the selection criteria?

There are no tie breakers. The performance indicator, one of the sport specific criteria, is the only selection criterion that considers tie breakers.