



2020-21 Ratings Philosophy Statement

Background:

The NAIA Council of Presidents and other membership groups have expressed concerns regarding the current ratings system and its impact on postseason selection with a limited number of institutions competing. Additionally, the Conference Commissioners Association has requested guidance on how to conduct the ratings process with some conferences not participating during the fall.

Action:

To develop a statement regarding the ratings and postseason selection process.

The NAC recognizes that COVID-19 has significantly impacted the ability of conferences to schedule competitions in the traditional manner during the academic year. In an effort to adjust to the changing environment, the NAC will hold a number of rating periods during the fall term for those conferences participating in fall sports during this time. This will insure that a team's results are being recognized during the respective ratings periods. Additionally, the NAC recently removed rating stipulations of automatic qualifiers for postseason qualification in the sports of men's and women's cross country and football. This should help protect a conference's postseason access. Additionally, all NAIA sports will be required to move to the selection committee model to select the at-large qualifiers for our national championships, with the exception of women's volleyball. The utilization of selection committees ensures that multiple data points are used to select at-large qualifiers.