

FOOTBALL COACH
CRITERIA FOR AT-LARGE SELECTION AND SEEDING

A. CRITERIA

The following criteria for selection of at-large teams, and seeding of teams, has been established by the NCS Board of Managers through input from coaches, athletic directors, principals, league commissioners and NCS staff. The criteria and process is extremely important and the first step towards the development of NCS Championship brackets. It is recommended that all coaches review the criteria and information below.

BYLAW 516H Criteria for At-Large Selection

The criteria for selection of at-large teams for NCS/Les Schwab Tires Championship Series Events in all appropriate sports shall be a balance between:

- 1) Record overall
 - a. League/place (co-champion)
 - b. League playoff record, if any
 - c. Non-league (pre-season/tournament/other)
- 2) Strength of Schedule
 - a. Record against top 3 opponents other sports.
 1. List your most significant victories/defeats
 - b. Head-to-head against teams which have qualified or are being considered.
 - c. Record against common opponents.
 - d. Coaches' Ranking

The NCS/Les Schwab Tires Football Championship formats adopted by the NCS Board of Managers must be followed.

Review of Criteria

1. RECORD

Basic Premise

Every CIF contest must be considered in determining at-large or seeding positions. The positions are awarded to teams not individuals, thus the loss of a star player(s) is not a basis for justifying a loss. Officials' calls, or facility conditions (provided they meet the National Federation Football rule book standards), home and away games are all part of the game and do not justify or mitigate a loss. Coaches who raise those types of excuses will be interrupted immediately.

Overall record - This represents every game played, pre-season, league, tournament, non-league games to fill bye dates in the league schedule, league playoffs, etc. **Every complete game!**

League/record/Place - This is the round-robin won/loss record and the round-robin place.

Playoff Record/Place - This is the record in the league post-season playoff (if any) and the place in the league post-season place.

Co-Champ (yes/no) - If a league declares a co--championship between 2 teams or amongst 3 or more teams this should be stated as "yes." When weighing this category committee members are instructed to remember that not only did the co-champions tie for first place but they also tied for second place (in the case of a two way tie) and third place (in the case of a three way tie). This factor should be evaluated very carefully. It is not the same or necessarily almost the same as an outright championship.

Non-League Record - All games played that were not league games, including tournament, pre-season, non-league bye dates, etc.

Pre-Season - All games played prior to the league season. These games sometimes provide an important insight to the strength of schedule of the various teams. While coaches may be experimenting with personnel, strategy etc., the NCS position has been that whenever a game is played it will be used to evaluate the strength of the competing teams. It is generally considered a better indication of a team's strength to measure its accomplishments in the pool as opposed to a subjective analysis.

Coaches' Ranking – Each coach/representative will be given an opportunity to rank each team listed on the board (automatic and at-large entries) prior to the At-large & Seeding Committee selection of at-large teams and seeding of the tournament. The ranking will be completed by each coach/representative after all schools present make their two-minute presentation.

2. STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

Record & Score vs. Top Three Opponents - The coach will provide written supporting documentation as

to the quality of each of the top three opponents. Committee members will normally check losses that are not accounted for in the top three opponents. Questions could arise such as, "Coach, why didn't you rate team X, which defeated your team, in your top three opponents?" "Coach, how do you explain your team's loss(es) to teams not in your top three opponents?" Committee members are instructed to evaluate any records amongst the top three opponents that are substantially better than the team's overall record. Look at this category carefully, it is often the critical link in determining the strength of a team's schedule.

List your most significant wins and losses - Significant victories and defeats must be listed to assist committee members in selection of at-large teams and seeding of teams. Committee members are instructed to carefully evaluate any game results in determining the strength of a team's schedule.

Head-to-Head - These are games between two teams under consideration for the same spot (e.g. at-large berth or seeding number). They are to be given a very high priority when choosing between **two** schools. This factor can be overridden by a significant difference in record, strength of schedule and the closeness of the head-to-head score. However, always remember that the head-to-head result was a result achieved by the student athletes in direct competition as opposed to a subjective decision in a meeting room.

Common Opponents - These are games when two teams under consideration for the same spot (e.g. at-large berth or seeding position) have played a mutual opponent(s). This factor is usually more valuable when there is more than one common opponent and the results are consistent. When everything else is "even," or "unclear" and a single common opponent exists, it may be appropriate to use it. Teams should not receive greater consideration for a 14 point plus victory margin than a 3 point victory margin (do not reward a team for running up the score). However, a difference in victory margin may be of significant when the teams being compared are rated virtually even or when there is not any other definitive basis for comparison.

3. BRACKETS

The NCS/Les Schwab Tires Football Championships will be conducted in five classifications. The classifications shall be as follows:

Class A – 8-team format

Class B – 6-team format

Class 2A – 16-team format (eight 2A East Bay bracket and eight 2A Redwood Empire bracket)

Class 3A – 16-team format (eight 2A East Bay bracket and eight 2A Redwood Empire bracket)

Class 4A East Bay – 8-team format

The respective Seeding Committee shall be responsible for the pairing and seeding of football NCS/Les Schwab Tires Championship Series Events per the format adopted by the Board of Managers.

4. SEEDING

The responsibility for seeding the tournament belongs to the committee members. However, the coaches ranking sometimes sheds light on perceived strengths and weaknesses of teams under consideration. Each bracket will be seeded completely.

Note: Following the two-minute presentation of each school the coach/representative will list the actual number for the ranking of each team on the board. Committee members often find it informational to ask a coach whose rankings of a school are considerably different than most other coaches to explain his/her rationale for the rating.

E. PROCEDURE

The panel will be seated at the front of the room. Panel members must always speak in a voice loud enough to be heard by the audience. All deliberations will be conducted in front of the audience. The chairperson will instruct members of the audience to please remain silent so that the panel's deliberations may be heard. The alternate(s) will sit with the committee and mentally serve as a committee member. However, the alternate(s) will not verbally participate unless seated as a voting member of the panel. The coaches of the schools (both automatic entries and schools applying for at-large berths) will be allowed to give a **two-minute** verbal presentation addressing only the criteria. Lot will determine the order of each presentation. Each two-minute presentation will be timed by a committee member appointed by the chairperson and presenters **will be reminded when their two minutes has expired**. Committee members at their own volition may ask questions (or seek clarification) related to the criteria of any of the coaches. Upon completion of the two-minute presentations of all schools present the chairperson will pass out to each coach/representative a Coaches' Ranking form for each school to rank all teams on the board. Coaches/representatives will complete the form and come forward in the room and place their ranking under each school. The completed form will then be turned into the chairperson.

The committee will then select the number of at-large teams necessary to complete the bracket.

Upon selection of the at-large teams, the committee will then seed the field of teams according to NCS policies.