



## MAXPREPS RANKINGS OVERVIEW

MaxPreps has been publishing rankings for nearly 15 years and uses data collected from well over 1 million games across multiple sports. The accuracy of MaxPreps' rankings is attributed to the overwhelming volume of data collected that goes into the rankings.

While traditional RPI or Power-Points systems only measure opponents and their opponents, which amounts to only 110 scores over a typical 10 game schedule, MaxPreps can utilize thousands of scores connected to that same team. Due to the exponential amount of games at the high school level, along with the drastic talent level difference, it is important to utilize as many game results as possible to improve upon where other rankings methodologies might fall short. This ultimately allows MaxPreps to connect all teams from coast-to-coast based upon unbiased data from each team.

### FAQ

#### **How does the formula differ from an RPI or power-points rankings system?**

Power points and RPI based systems select arbitrary point or percentage values for games against opponent and opponent's opponents. The value selected is not important, but the shortcoming is that both only measure two layers deep, whereas MaxPreps can measure infinitely deep. This allows MaxPreps to measure all teams against each other regardless of whether or not they have a common opponent. In the end, this is the core reason MaxPreps can better seed high school sports, where talent levels are vastly different from top to bottom. Power-points and RPI-based systems can't directly measure all teams against each other and fall somewhat short due to the large number of games and difference in talent at the high school level.

#### **Will defeating teams with winning records instead of losing records help improve a team's rating?**

Not necessarily. Defeating a team with a losing record that happens to compete in an extremely strong league can be more beneficial than defeating a team with a winning record playing an extremely weak schedule. This is a major advantage of the MaxPreps rankings; there is no way to cheat the system.

#### **How does the strength of schedule affect rankings?**

There is no direct mathematical link between the strength of schedule and the rating. However, typically teams with a strong strength of schedule will earn higher ratings than a team with a similar record but much weaker strength of schedule. However, teams with a weak strength of schedule can still be highly rated if they have key victories over highly rated opponents or by winning consistently over the course of the season. Ultimately, you will see a few teams with a weaker strength of schedule that earn their way among the top-ranked teams, although they may never actually play directly.

#### **Why is it that a team with a losing record can be ranked higher than a team with an exceptional record? Is strength of schedule the reason why?**

Not necessarily. The team with the losing record may be getting credit for key wins over highly ranked opponents or the team with a winning record may be dragged down by losses to very weak teams.



### **Are rankings impacted by playing teams in a different classification?**

There is no classification qualifier in the MaxPreps rankings, so there is no benefit or disadvantage to playing a team in a higher or lower classification.

### **Are forfeits counted in the rankings?**

No. Forfeits are unfortunate, however, there is no context for a forfeit to indicate what a team would actually do on the field. A misconception is that not counting forfeits encourages teams to dodge higher-ranked teams. The reality is if a lower-ranked team intentionally forfeits a game against a higher-ranked team, that team is most likely hurting its rating by losing the opportunity to improve their strength of schedule, regardless of game result.

### **Can the number of games played be the difference in rankings if the schedules are uneven?**

Additional games will not arbitrarily help a team's ranking because the formula does not automatically award points for each game or victory. Instead, all teams are measured against each other via infinite layers of data and opponents.

### **How do the rankings work weekly?**

The MaxPreps rankings are published throughout the week, with each sport designed to run on a specific day(s). Check the information under each sport header for that sport's publishing day(s).

## **High School Basketball Rankings**

- Rankings updated: Monday & Thursday, Last update: 1/29/15.
- [Learn more about the rankings.](#)

In addition, the rankings pages on MaxPreps are static, meaning the information, including the W-L record, on those pages is set on the specified posted date and is not updated again until the next publishing day for those rankings. That differs from the W-L records on the individual team pages which are interactive, meaning they update as each result is posted. That accounts for the discrepancy between the W-L record on the rankings pages and the individual team pages between posting days.

***Of note, each set of rankings is re-calculated from the start of the season to the current point of the season.*** The rankings are not calculated as a week-to-week running total. For instance, because a team won twice during a given week doesn't mean that team automatically will improve in the rankings the succeeding week, much as like what happens with traditional polls.

Remember, the results of a team's opponents, and their opponents' opponents, also factor into that team's ranking, as well, so if numerous opponents, and their opponents' opponents, lost during that week it could prevent that team from improving in the rankings.