

(e) Check the NCHSAA website for additional information.

4.1.15 **Submission of Incorrect Record:** Once the seeding process is completed and the brackets have been finalized, if a team has submitted an incorrect record, and the seed is affected, that team will be removed from the bracket and no other team will be substituted in or added to the playoffs. **Note:** Incorrect records can be changed during the NCHSAA designated “window of opportunity.” Reference 3.3.3 (d)(e) & (f).

4.1.16 **Playoff Ranking Formula:** A Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) formula will be used for qualification and seeding determinations in all team bracketed playoffs with the exception of dual team wrestling.

(a) $RPI = (0.3 \times WP) + (0.4 \times OWP) + (0.3 \times OOWP)$

(1) **Winning Percentage (WP):** Divide the number of wins in qualifying games by the number of total qualifying games played. A tie equals half of a win. If a win in an individual contests gives that contest a winning percentage of 1.00, a tie would give that individual contest a winning percentage of .500 for both teams.

(2) **Opponents' Winning Percentage (OWP):** Average the winning percentages of a team's qualifying opponents. All games involving the team whose RPI is being calculated are ignored in this process.

NOTE: This is not calculated via the combined record of the opponents, but rather by averaging each winning percentage of the qualifying opponents.

(3) **Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage (OOWP):** The same process as described in 4.1.17 (a) (2) is used to calculate this percentage for the opponents of a team's opponents.

NOTE: There is an exception for out-of-state teams and non-NCHSAA members in North Carolina addressed in 4.1.16 (b).

(b) **Out-of-State & In-State Non-NCHSAA Member Opponents:** Out-of-State opponents from states that border North Carolina will be counted the same as in-state opponents provided they have a verified MaxPreps account and schedule.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the NCHSAA member school to ensure that the data from their out-of-state opponent or non-NCHSAA member opponent is correctly listed on MaxPreps.

(1) Any out-of-state opponent from a state that does not directly border North Carolina will be calculated in the following manner:

(i) Opponent's direct winning percentage (i.e., .750) will count toward the formula, but each of their opponents will have a .500 winning percentage assigned.

(ii) The .500 figure was selected because it is the average value of opponents' opponents' winning percentages across all sports in data gathered from the states using RPI, such as Colorado, Utah and Washington.

4.1.17 **Bracket Sizes:**

(a) Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, & Volleyball

(1) 64-team brackets

(b) Lacrosse

(1) 40-team brackets

(c) Tennis, Wrestling

(1) 32-team brackets

4.1.18 **Playoff Berths/Qualification:**

(a) Each conference will be allotted automatic playoff berths based on the number of schools fielding a team in a particular sport in a given classification.

(1) 1-5 teams = 1 Berth (Conference Champion)

(2) 6+ teams = 2 Berths (Conference Champion and Second Place or Conference Tournament Champion)

(b) The highest finishing team from a given classification in a split conference will automatically qualify, regardless of overall conference finish, provided there are at least two schools from each classification in that split conference.

(c) Any remaining, non-automatic qualifying teams in each region (East/West) will fill the remaining berths based solely upon their RPI rating.

4.1.19 **Seeding:**

(a) The pre-determined East and West Regions will be seeded independently of one another.

(b) The teams in each region will be seeded as follows:

(1) Seed all 1st place automatic berths by RPI rating (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system).
NOTE: The highest finishing team in its half of a split conference must finish in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place overall and/or have an overall winning percentage of .500 or higher in order to be seeded as a #1. Otherwise, the team will be seeded with all other at-large teams.

(2) Seed all 2nd place automatic berths or conference tournament champions and at-large berths by RPI rating (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system).

(c) Once seeding is complete: