

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL INVITATION TOURNAMENT (WBIT) PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING THE BRACKET

There are three phases in the process:

- I. **Select** the 32 at-large teams;
- II. **Seed** the field of 32 teams; and
- III. **Place** the teams into the bracket.

General Principles for Selection, Seeding and Bracketing

The WBIT selection committee will abide by the following principles:

- The committee selects the best available teams to fill the WBIT field. There is no limit on the number of teams the committee may select from one conference.
- At no point in the process shall a member vote for a team the individual currently represents as an institutional or conference administrator.
- The regular-season champion of any NCAA Division I conference (as determined by the conference's tie-break protocol) not otherwise selected to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship will secure an automatic qualification to the Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament. Co-champions who do not receive the declaration of WBIT representative through the conference's tie-break protocol will not receive automatic qualification. Institutions ineligible for postseason play will not receive automatic qualification as a regular-season champion.
- The first four teams out of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship – as determined by the Division I Women's Basketball Committee - will receive an automatic bid and will be the top four seeds in the WBIT field.
- Reclassifying institutions are not eligible to participate in the WBIT.
- All votes will be by secret ballot.
- Principles must be followed by the WBIT committee during selection, seeding and bracketing of the field. **Selection, seeding and bracketing principles are not considered in priority order.** All principles must be adhered to throughout each of the three processes. The committee will make every effort to apply "additional considerations", provided they do not cause a violation of the principles.

Among the resources available to the committee are complete box scores, game summaries and notes, various computer rankings, head-to-head results, chronological results, Division I results, non-conference results, home and away results, results in the last 10 games, rankings and polls.

I. Selecting At-Large Teams

Procedures for Selecting At-Large Teams

1. Prior to the selection meeting, each committee member will receive an "initial ballot" comprised of two columns listing all eligible Division I teams in alphabetical order.

Each committee member will submit the ballot by a designated time on the first full day of the selection meeting.

2. In the first column, each committee member shall identify **not more than 48 teams** that, in that member's opinion, should be at-large selections in the tournament based upon play to date.
3. In the second column, each committee member shall identify all teams that **should receive consideration** for at-large berths. There is no minimum or maximum limit in the second column.
4. A member need not vote for a team that has earned automatic qualification to the NCAA tournament or is a conference's regular season championship that will receive an automatic qualification to the WBIT if not selected to the NCAA tournament.
5. Any team receiving all but two of the eligible votes in Column 1 shall move into the tournament field as an at-large selection.
6. The committee will form an "at-large nomination board" consisting of an alphabetical listing of all teams that:
 - a. Received more than one vote in the initial ballot but, did not receive enough votes to move onto the selection board.
 - b. Did not receive more than one vote on the initial ballot, but was subsequently recommended by more than one member prior to closing initial nominations.
7. A team may be removed from the nomination board if it receives all but two of the eligible votes.
8. A team may be added to the nomination board at any time provided it receives at least two eligible votes.
9. Verbal nominations are permitted.

Remaining Ballots

1. The committee will evaluate those teams on the nomination board.
2. Each committee member will submit a list of the best eight teams from the nomination board, not in rank order, to be added to the at-large field.
3. The eight teams receiving the most votes comprise the next at-large ballot.
4. Each committee member will "rank" the eight teams, using a cross country scoring system (e.g., first or best is valued at one point).
5. The four teams receiving the fewest points shall be moved into the tournament field as an at-large selection. The other four teams will be held for the next ballot.
6. The "list" eight, "rank" eight, "move" four process will be repeated until all at-large berths have been filled.
7. If a team fails to move onto the at-large board for two consecutive at-large ballots, it shall be returned to the nomination board.
8. A team may be removed from the at-large field and returned to the nomination board if it receives all but two of the eligible votes.

Additional Considerations

- At any time during the process, the chair may suggest that the committee begin reviewing teams that should be eliminated from the at-large nomination board. A team may be removed from consideration if it receives all but two of the eligible votes.
- At any time, the chair may call for a review of teams on the holding board. A majority of eligible votes can remove a team from or add a team to the holding board. Teams that have been removed from the holding board will return to the Nomination board.
- The number of teams eligible to receive votes may be increased or decreased by the chair if circumstances warrant. Further, the chair has the option to revise the number of teams to be moved onto the at-large board from four to fewer than four.
- At any time, the chair may call for a cross-country vote of all remaining teams on the at-large nomination board.

- At any time during the process of selecting the at-large teams, the committee may elect to begin seeding the teams.

II. Seeding of Teams

The committee will create an seed list (i.e., rank of the teams 1 through approximately 32) which is used as a reference to assess competitive balance.

Teams announced by the NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee as the “first four teams out” of the NCAA Women’s Basketball Championship field will be the top four seeds in the WBIT field.

Once the seed list is finalized, it remains unchanged while the bracket is assembled.

The bracket placement principles adopted by the committee may preclude a team from being placed in its “true” seed (in accordance with the seed list).

Procedures for Seeding Teams

1. Each committee member will submit a list of the best eight teams, not in rank order, from teams that are in the tournament as automatic qualifiers or at-large selections.
2. The eight teams receiving the most votes of the eligible votes comprise the next seed list ballot.
3. Each committee member will “rank” the eight teams, using a cross country scoring system (e.g., first or best is valued at one point).
4. The four teams receiving the fewest points shall be moved into the seed list, in rank order. The other four teams will be held for the next ballot.
5. The “list” eight, “rank” eight, “move” four in rank order process will be repeated until all teams have been seeded in the seed list.
6. After a team has been voted into the seed list, it may be moved to a different position by a simple majority of eligible votes.
7. The committee is not obligated to seed the lines in chronological order.
8. After determination of the seeded teams taken in the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship, the seed list will be revised (compressed) and the teams 1-32 will comprise the WBIT field.

Additional Considerations

- At any time, the chair may call for a review of teams on the holding board. A majority of eligible votes can remove a team from or add a team to the holding board. Teams that have been removed from the holding board will return to the Nomination board.
- The number of teams eligible to receive votes may be increased or decreased by the chair if circumstances warrant. Further, the chair has the option to revise the number of teams to be moved onto the the the seed list from four to fewer than four.

III. Building the Bracket

1. The priority for the committee will be to achieve the best-possible competitive balance in each region, while placing teams as close to their areas of natural interest as possible.
2. Four levels are established (i.e., the seeds, 1 through 32) in the bracket that transcend each of the four regions, permitting evaluation of four teams simultaneously on the same level.
3. Each of the first two teams selected from a conference shall be placed in different regions.
4. Conference teams shall not meet each other prior to the quarterfinals unless a ninth team is selected from a conference.

Additional Considerations

1. A team moved out of its natural area will be placed in the next closest region when possible.
2. If possible, rematches of regular-season games should be avoided in the first round.

IV. Procedures for Placing Teams into the Bracket

1. Place the No. 1 seeds on the board to establish the four regions.
2. Place the No. 2 seeds in each region geographically closest to the No. 1 seeds.
3. Place the No. 3 seeds in each region geographically closest to the No. 2 seeds.
4. Place the No. 4 seeds in each region geographically closest to the No. 1 seeds.

- Higher-seeded teams will have the first option to host games as they advance, unless extenuating logistical circumstances (i.e., travel, lodging, facility availability and/or WBIT championship guidelines) preclude such an opportunity.

If two unseeded teams were to advance in the bracket, the highest seed from the seed list will have the first option to host.

- Once the top 16 teams have been placed in the bracket, the remaining 16 teams will be placed in the bracket as close to their areas of natural interest as possible.
- Review the groups of four to ensure adherence to the principles for seeding.



The NCAA Evaluation Tool (NET) for women's basketball is the contemporary sorting tool used to measure a team's quality and help evaluate team resumes for selection and seeding in the WBIT. NET ranking is determined by who you played, where you played, how efficiently you played and the result of the game.

The women's basketball NET includes **Adjusted Net Efficiency** and **Team Value Index**. Adjusted Net Efficiency is a measure of a team's overall performance during the regular season, determined by the difference between offensive efficiency (points per possession) and defensive efficiency (opponents points per possession). It also accounts for strength of opponents (as measured by their adjusted net efficiency) and location (home/away/neutral) of the games (against Division I opponents only). Team Value Index is the results-oriented component of the NET, ranking more highly those teams that played and beat other good teams, factoring in opponent, location of the game and winner.

The NET is one of many criteria used by the WBIT selection committee in the selection and seeding of the 32 teams which make up the bracket for the WBIT.

Criteria used by the WBIT selection committee to evaluate a team includes (alphabetically):

- Bad losses
- Common opponents
- Competitive in losses

- Conference record
- Early performance versus late performance
- Head-to-head
- NET ranking
- Non-conference record
- Observable component
- Overall record
- Regional rankings
- Significant wins
- Strength of schedule

During selection meeting, the selection committee members independently evaluate a vast pool of information. It is these subjective opinions, developed after watching hundreds of games, investing many hours of personal team (or game) observations, review and comparison of objective data, plus discussions with coaches and campus/conference representatives, that dictate how each committee member ultimately votes on the selection of the 32 at-large teams.

SEED LIST

LINE NO.

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8.	7.	6.	5.	2
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24.	23.	22.	21.	6
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