

III. UNIVERSAL TIE-BREAKER (qualifying for the league/region tournaments)

1. The win-loss record(s) of the teams in league play shall determine seeding into the league/region playoffs. The league's administrators will determine win-loss records based on previously approved schedules. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken using the following procedures:
2. Tie between two (2) teams
 - A. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.
 - B. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.
 - C. If the tie remains, if applicable, the team that won the second scheduled league game between the tied teams will receive the higher seed.
 - D. If the tie remains, the team with the fewest total goals given up against all scheduled league opponents will receive the higher seed.
 - E. If the tie remains, a coin flip will be used to determine the higher seed.

EXCEPTION: Steps 'C', 'D' and 'E' are only to be used for seeding. A team shall not be eliminated from the league/region playoffs by the application of steps 'C', 'D' and 'E'. If the tie is not broken in steps 'A' and 'B' and a team will be eliminated, a playoff game will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for this contest.

3. Tie between three (3) or more teams
 - A. In all cases of ties involving more than two teams, as each team is removed from the tie, all other tied teams revert back to head-to-head to break the tie and the process continues.
 - B. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.

-- more --

Example of Multiple Team Ties:

- i. Games
Team A defeated Team B twice and split with Team C
Team B lost to Team A twice but defeated Team C twice
Team C lost to Team B twice and split with Team A
- ii. Mini Standings
Team A 3-1
Team B 2-2
Team C 1-3
- iii. Results
Team A is awarded highest seed
Team B is awarded second highest seed because of its
head-to-head record against Team C

C. Goal Differential

If the tie remains, tied teams will compare their goal differential with each other in league play. Each team will total their margin of victory against the other tied teams with marginal goals being the difference in the scores of a contest. Winning teams will add the margin of goals while losing teams will subtract the margin of goals. No more than five (5) goals will be added or subtracted in any league contest. The team with the highest number of marginal goals will receive the highest seed. If there is a tie for highest marginal goals, then those tied teams shall revert back to the respective tie-breaking procedure based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.

Example of goal differential (5 maximum) system:

- i. Games
Team A defeats Team B, 5-2
Team B defeats Team C, 3-0
Team C ties Team A, 1-1.
- ii. Goal Differential
Marginal goals for Team A: +3
Marginal goals for Team B: 0
Marginal goals for Team C: -3
- iii. Results
Team A is awarded highest seed
Team B is awarded second highest seed because of the
head-to-head record against Team C

- D. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.
- E. If a tie still exists and all tied teams, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region playoffs, are guaranteed entrance into the tournament, then a coin toss will be used to determine seeding. The winner of any coin flip will receive the highest seed. Remaining teams would revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.
- F. If a tie still exists and one or more of the tied teams, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region playoffs, must be eliminated, a playoff game(s) will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for the contest.

Note: In the event of a multiple team tie as outlined in step 'F,' the tied teams will draw numbers. The team drawing #1 will have a bye and will play the winner of the first playoff game. All games will be scheduled as soon as possible. Seeding will be established by the results of the playoff.