

NCAA Q&A on postseason football

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The following contains questions and answers regarding NCAA football, including bowl games, information on the BCS, the difference between the Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision, and other helpful information.

1. Why is there no playoff/traditional championship structure in Division I-A football?

The arrangement that determines a national champion in Division I-A football -- the Bowl Championship Series -- is administered by the 11 Division I-A Conferences and the University of Notre Dame. The first year of the BCS was 1998.

The BCS consists of five bowl games: the BCS National Championship Game plus four other bowl games (Rose Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl). The No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the final BCS standings meet in the National Championship Game. This season, the championship game is scheduled for January 8, 2007, in Glendale, Arizona.

Click here for the official BCS website:

<http://www.bcsfootball.org/bcsfootball/>

There are a total of 32 bowl games. Click here for a complete list of bowl games and more information:

http://www1.ncaa.org/eprise/main/membership/postseason_football/contacts

Competitions created by the Bowl Championship Series are not part of the NCAA championship program, nor are they administered by an NCAA committee or the national office staff.

In order for a NCAA Division I-A Football Championship to be established, the NCAA Division I membership must consider such a proposal through its normal legislative process. As of this date, legislation to establish a Division I-A championship has not been considered by the membership.

Through the years there have been several efforts to address the subject. In 1976, a proposal to establish a Division I-A football championship was introduced on the recommendation of a special committee that had studied the feasibility of a playoff. This proposal, however, was withdrawn and there was no discussion on the Convention floor. A resolution was presented during the 1988 Convention

that stated the Division I-A membership did not support the creation of a national championship in the sport of football, which passed by a vote of 98 in favor, 13 opposed and one abstention. In 1994, a panel was formed to gather information regarding the viability of establishing a Division I-A football championship. The panel forwarded a report to the NCAA Presidents Commission; however, it was decided that the Association would not pursue a Division I-A championship at that time.

For more information, listen to a recent podcast of “Mondays with Myles,” as NCAA President Myles Brand discusses postseason football with NCAA blogger Josh Centor:

http://www.doubleazone.com/2006/12/mondays_with_myles_whats_the_d.html

2. How is the NCAA involved in the bowl games?

The Postseason Football Licensing Subcommittee of the NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet includes one representative from each Division I-A conference. The subcommittee is responsible for issues involving postseason football contests. There are currently 32 bowls licensed by the NCAA.

Postseason bowls have long been a tradition and a reward for a successful football season. Bowls are an extra contest beyond the limits established in Bylaw 17.11.5.2, and are played after the end of the regular season as defined in Bylaw 18.7.1. Bowls for student-athletes involve additional practice time, physical dedication, risk of injury and, consequently, require NCAA authorization and regulation to protect student-athlete safety and well-being. Bowls ordinarily benefit sponsoring communities, participating member institutions and student-athletes, and must be regulated to preserve these benefits.

Because bowls are licensed by the NCAA and benefit from enabling NCAA bylaws, the public identifies bowls as a part of NCAA football. Bowls are a limited joint venture with the organizing committee, participating conferences, NCAA member institutions and the NCAA. If a bowl were to fail its purposes, its community, its participating institutions or participating student-athletes, the NCAA would be expected to prevent and remedy the situation. The goodwill and intellectual property of the NCAA is therefore affected by the success and failure of the bowls.

Here is a link to the 2006 Postseason Football Handbook:

http://www.ncaa.org/library/handbooks/football/2006/2006_postseason_football_handbook.pdf

