



MIAA Power Rankings proposal

MIAA Tournament Management Committee

February 29, 2024



MIAA Power Rankings

The current formula

TEAM'S AVERAGE MARGIN OF VICTORY *	+	AVERAGE OF OPPONENTS' RATINGS	=	OVERALL RATING
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- **MARGIN OF VICTORY:** Capped for each game, depending on sport
- **AVERAGE OF OPPONENTS' RATINGS:** Calculated via a process called "iteration" – up to 1,000 trials and a minimum change of four decimal points
- **OVERALL RATING:** Sum of the above two components



MIAA Power Rankings

Accounting for forfeited contests

***RATIONALE:** Very few states outside of Massachusetts use a power ranking formula to seed postseason tournaments. Those that do range from forfeit(s) still counting in the rankings (Washington), to counting for only the winning team (Connecticut awards bonus points), to not counting in the rankings at all (Arizona).*

For the purposes of the MIAA power rankings, completely eliminating a forfeited contest from the calculations doesn't work. After all, there would be no "down side" or penalty for the team that had to forfeit the contest.



MIAA Power Rankings

Accounting for forfeited contests

***RATIONALE:** During the Spring 2023 baseball season, Team A was awarded a forfeit victory from Team B, as opposed to a “no contest” between the schools. The impact of that decision was felt throughout the final power rankings and all five brackets:*

- *Team B swapped seed positions (drop) with one other school*
- *One forfeit affected the final power ranking positions for exactly **10 percent** (32 out of 320) of all MIAA baseball teams for the 2023 season.*
- *Of the other 30 teams, only three were direct opponents of either Team A or Team B.*



MIAA Power Rankings

Proposal: Accounting for forfeits

- *Any contest that is forfeited – regardless of whether it is played and forfeited after the fact, or a forfeit is awarded without the contest being played – will be removed from the **“Opponent Value”** portion of the power rankings. However, a team still will receive the maximum margin of victory (+ or -) toward the **“Own Value”** portion of the power rankings for the affected contest. **NOTE: This adjustment is made after the power rankings are calculated, so as not to impact the **“Opponent Value”** calculation for any teams.***
- *A forfeiting team must have a minimum number of qualifying contests for that sport in the power rankings to be eligible for the postseason. (Teams receiving forfeit victories are not affected by this rule.)*



MIAA Power Rankings

Proposal: Forfeits ... Example

- A boys hockey team (Team A) was forced to forfeit eight contests because of use of an ineligible player. One of the opponents (Team B) won the actual head-to-head meeting by more than the 3-goal margin, but the resulting forfeits caused Team B's "**Opponent Value**" to drop.
- Removing the Team A forfeited contests from the initial calculations would have caused the following changes:
 - Team A does not move in the final power rankings (outside the top 32, does not qualify with a record below .500)
 - Team B would jump two spots, from No. 18 to 16, in the final seedings
 - Three other teams that received forfeit victories would move up either 1 or 2 seeding positions
 - One opponent that did not receive a forfeit victory would move up from No. 33 to No. 32 and subsequently qualify for the postseason despite a sub-.500 record – bumping out the actual No. 32 team (which also had a record below .500)
 - Half of the Division 2 teams (21 of 42) would change power ranking positions, and 49 of 187 teams overall across four divisions