

2025 Playoff and Bracket Committee Presentation

South Carolina

Tommy Bell and Shane Fidler

RPI - How it Works

<https://states.maxpreps.com/widgets/schsl/rpi/>

-Each teams RPI number is calculated on the following percentage weights

40% - Your Record | 30% - Opponents Record | 30% Opponents Opponent Record

-Each coach is required to enter the results following the contest. AD's are responsible for overseeing/double checking

-Errors happen, when noticed we have coaches contact coaches to make changes, then AD to AD, following that we bring the grievance to the bracket committee who verifies and contact maxpreps (rare!)

RPI - How it Works

No need to worry about games individually because tool is meant to be comprehensive look at the seasons between teams.

Team A had 9 football games in 2024 and was concerned they would be hurt in RPI. Maxpreps explanation was:

8-1 record is 88% winning percentage.

9-1 record is 90% winning percentage.

So 40% of .02 difference in winning percentage (.008 difference) in one aspect of the RPI. Who was that one win against and did that help in other two factors was something else for them to consider.

RPI - Making the Bracket

- At the end of the season, we have all regions submit final standings for the sport
- We then seed all of the region champs based on RPI, then the region runners up based on RPI (altered from year one)
- Following that we seed the remaining teams based on RPI, but we use a “leapfrog” rule to prevent teams who finished lower in region standings from jumping higher teams

RPI - Pros and Examples of Positives

- No worrying about luck of the H
- Simplicity of RPI. It updates constantly. (Hourly)
- RPI helps with imbalance in number of teams in regions and number of regions in Upper/Lower State. (Example: 4th place team in 8 team region vs 4th place team in 5 team region)
- Control the controllables- School A girls tennis, dropped down in seeding below School B from their own region because of Leapfrog.
- Region rematches = higher gate/lower travel expenses
- No debate or voting over at large spots

Real Examples of Pros of RPI

- School A (VB #6 in region) hosted School B (4 in a different region) because higher in RPI. School A won 3-0.
- School A Football- Wins region at 3-7, crazy tiebreakers. In old system as a region champ, could have hosted throughout playoffs if the H fell in their favor. In RPI System, they were seeded lowest among region champs and drew the highest ranked region runner-up in quarterfinals.

Predetermined Brackets in Other States

- Chattanooga Central High School (Tennessee)- 4th place team in a 4 team region. Automatic bid to playoffs. Has decided they will forfeit the game, pay \$2000 fine to opponent and take a ban on making playoffs in 2026 per TSSAA. Team went 1-9 scoring 7 touchdowns all season and did not want to spend \$5,000 on trip for first round game.
- Marshall Academy (MS)- Banned from playoffs after being deemed to lose a game on purpose. Sat Starters, did not run plays, etc. Winner of game would go Division 1 for playoffs and loser was going to go Division 2.

Leapfrog Rule vs No Leapfrog Rule

In Georgia last week, SE Bulloch HS defeated Beach HS 48-8. SE Bulloch finished 5-5 and 5th in a 10 team region. Beach HS finished 6th in the region. Georgia goes straight to RPI, so Beach HS got in the playoffs as the #29 seed and SE Bulloch missed the playoffs.

In South Carolina in 24-25 (using Leapfrog)

2024/25 Boys Basketball Region Finish

- 14th in RPI Team A (3rd Place in Region - 7 seed)
- 18th in RPI Team B (4th Place in Region - 12 seed)
- 24th in RPI Team C (2nd Place in Region - 6 seed)

2024 Girls Volleyball Region Finish

- 9th in RPI Team A (3rd Place in Region - 7 seed)
- 26th in RPI Team B (2nd Place in Region - 6 seed)

Cons of the RPI

- Potential for region rematches in first/second round
- Potential for same team to host in back to back years. We could put in rules to compensate for this at a certain point in bracket or if it is a certain level of finish (region champs)
- Region finish contradicts RPI sometimes because we are not all in on RPI setting the seeds. For example, School A Boys VB is 14 in RPI and School B was #8. School B Beat School A twice in regular season. School B went to School A in playoffs because School A was region champ. (This is a current scenario we see in predetermined brackets as well)

Region Tiebreakers

Where we see the most influx in seeding is when we get into region tiebreaker scenarios like the one below where 3 teams tied for the region crown.

Team A- RPI 23

Team B- RPI 13

Team C- RPI 10

Region Tiebreaker set it as region finish of A #1, B #2, C #3.

Overall seeds in bracket became: A #4, B #5, C #6

Some regions have changed and now use RPI as their region tiebreaker after head to head.

Making the Bracket Options

Seeding for 26-27 must be determined to be done by these options:

1. Automatic Qualifiers from region play seeded by RPI. This allows you to finish a certain spot in the region standings and guarantee placement into bracket. This would be current 4A model.
2. RPI completing the bracket after Region champs and runners up are seeded. This is currently how we do it in 5A.
3. Straight RPI for all seeding regardless of region finish.
4. Straight RPI outside of Region champs and runners-up without a leapfrog rule for region finish to be considered.

Why we think you should keep RPI

- Helps the dominant teams in a sport with scheduling
- Most fair way we have seen to seed
- Brackets should not be about luck of the draw or luck of the H. Brackets should try to balance. The worst #1 seed should get the best #2 seed, and so on and so forth.
- Rewards regular season total body of work

Thank you for your time

For questions:

Tommy Bell

thomasbell@anderson5.net

864-209-7197

Shane Fidler

sfidler@lexington1.net

717-495-5469