

Building the Bracket for ICSA Coed and Women's National Championships

Step One: Initial Ballot

- a. At the beginning of selection week, each committee member casts an "initial ballot" composed of two columns listing all eligible ICSA teams in alphabetical order. Each committee member will submit the ballot by Monday afternoon, the first day of selection meetings. The committee members may select up to $\frac{2}{3}$ of available berths teams as at-large teams (AL). These are teams the individual member believes are "locks" to make the ICSA Championship, regardless of any other results and regardless of whether that team could eventually represent their conference as an Automatic Qualifier (AQ). The committee member also selects an unlimited number of teams that merit consideration for the championships. However, these teams should only be those that the committee member strongly feels might be one of the 31 best teams to fill the at-large berths.

In the second column, each member shall identify all teams that should receive consideration (C) for an at-large berth. There is no minimum or maximum limit in the second column; however, only teams meriting serious consideration and meeting all selection criteria should receive votes.

2. Any team receiving all but two of the eligible votes in Column 1 (AL) is moved into the tournament field as an at-large selection.
3. The committee will form an "under-consideration" board consisting of an alphabetical listing of teams that:
 - a. Received at least 20% in either of the columns of the initial ballot but did not receive enough votes to be an at-large team; or
5. A team may be added to the "under-consideration" board at any time provided it receives at least three eligible nominations.
6. Verbal nominations are permitted.

Step 2: Remaining Ballots

1. The committee then begins evaluating those teams on the "under consideration" board.
2. Each committee member will select the best teams from the "under consideration" board, in no particular order, to be added to the at-large field. Each committee member will be limited to select a number of teams equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the available berths remaining:
3. When 24 or fewer teams remain in the pool of teams (during the selection or seeding process), a member may not participate in discussions of a team he or she represents as a coach.

4. A field of teams, at least 2x the number of available berths remaining, will move on to No. 5. This field can be larger if there are equal numbers of votes for teams, and a team must receive at least 50% of the votes to move to No. 5.
 - a. If a field of 2x the available remaining berths cannot be formed from teams that received at least 50% of the votes, then No. 2 shall be repeated with only the teams that received votes.
5. Committee members then rank the field of teams, using a "ranking" scoring system (i.e., the best team is valued at one point).
6. The top teams, to fill 2/3 of the available berths remaining, receiving the fewest points shall be added to the at-large field. The other teams will be held for the next ballot.
7. Steps No. 2-6 is then repeated until all at large berths are filled
9. If a team fails to be included among the teams receiving the fewest points (Step No. 6), it shall be returned to the "under- consideration" board, without prejudice.
10. At any time during the process, 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 fewer than the allotted to be moved into at- large berths per No. 6.
11. A team may be removed from the at-large field by a vote of all but two of the eligible votes. Such a team would be returned to the "under consideration" board, without prejudice.
12. After the completion of three rounds of secret voting, if the voting results are still tied, the Chair shall break the tie.
13. At any time during the process of selecting the at-large teams, the committee may elect to begin seeding the teams (Section II). This allows the committee to proceed while allowing time for results of regattas sailed during selection weekend.