



NEWS RELEASE

AIA POWER RANKINGS SYSTEM MODIFIED

PHOENIX, AZ (February 22, 2008) – An adjustment to the AIA Power Rankings System (APRS) has been made that will take effect for the spring sports of baseball, softball, team tennis, and volleyball.

The modification will enhance the victory points matrix based on the sport and number of max games that can count toward a schools power ranking in a particular sport. The opponent victory point matrix will stay the same for all sports, based on a five point scale.

“The initial development of the system was created off of football,” Chuck Schmidt, AIA Chief Operations Officer said. “It became evident over the course of the winter sports season that a modification needed to be made to the system for the sports that play more than 10 games in a season.”

In football, on the most basic level, a school earns 50 points for a victory in a game counting toward power rankings, and five points for each opponent’s victory in a counting game. The same was true for the other sports; however, in a sport like basketball, where 18 games are played, a school could potentially earn more points for losing than for winning. If a 0-17 team played a 17-0 team and lost, the 0-18 team would earn 90 points for each one of the 18-0 teams wins; furthermore, the 18-0 team would earn only 50 victory points for that win, 40 points less.

“As the fall and winter sports seasons progressed, the AIA started to receive feedback from athletic administrators and coaches,” AIA Director of Media Marketing Brian Bolitho said. “From that feedback the AIA made the modification that is necessary to better align with the mission statement of the AIA to ‘ensure fair and equitable competition.’”

The modification to APRS ensures that a school that wins a game will always earn equal amount of points, if not more, than the losing team. In the sports of baseball, basketball and softball, where a max 18 games can count toward power rankings, a school now can earn 90 points for a victory. In volleyball (boys and girls) a school can earn 85 points for a victory with a max of 17 games. In badminton and team tennis, a school can earn 70 points for a win (max 14 games). In soccer, a 12 game max, a school can earn 60 points for a win, and in football, a 10 game max, the number stays the same at 50 for a win.

“The APRS was created for the member schools, by the member schools,” AIA Executive Director Harold Slemmer said. “This is a system that allows for modifications should they be necessary and it’s also a formula that the membership can all see and understand.”

How the APRS Works

A schools power ranking is equal to the total amount of victory points for wins by the school plus the opponent victory points of wins by the schools opponents. That number is divided by the total number of games the school has scheduled that count toward power rankings up to the maximum per AIA Bylaws, equaling the schools power ranking.

For example, in baseball, a school will earn 90 points for playing a member school of their conference, and the school can earn five opponent victory points for each one of their opponents wins. Based on the APRS Matrix, if a school plays one conference/division level lower, that school can still earn the same amount of victory points; furthermore, if the school’s opponent plays one conference/division level lower, that school can still earn the same number of opponent victory points.

In addition, the APRS Matrix is set-up so that if a school plays an opponent one conference/division level higher, that school would have the opportunity to earn an additional five victory points for each conference/division level that school played up and won. If the school's opponent plays one conference/division level higher, that school can still earn five opponent victory points. If the school's opponent plays two conference/division levels higher, that school can earn an additional half point if that school's opponent wins that game.

Games that Count toward a Schools Power Ranking

Only regular season games up to the max number, per AIA bylaws in the below table, count towards a schools power ranking. Invitational or regional tournament games do not count toward a schools power ranking. In addition, should a school schedule more than the max number of games that count toward power rankings, that school must submit its non-counting game to their respective conference.

Sport	Max Divisor (based on AIA Bylaws)	Minimum Divisor
Badminton	14	12
Baseball	18	16
Basketball	18	16
Football	10	8
Soccer	4A – 9; All others – 12	4A – 8; All others – 10
Softball	18	16
Tennis – Team	14	12
Volleyball	17	15

How Users can Access the APRS

Users can view the power rankings by sport through the AIA website, www.aiaonline.org. The Power Rankings section can be accessed through the Athletics portion of the website, or through the following link: <http://www.aiaonline.org/pr/index.php>

A feature of the APRS allows users to see how a member school earns points throughout the season of play. By clicking on the school name within the power rankings, a pop-up will be displayed with the schools schedule detailing the opponent, game date, opponent's record, opponent's classification, the result, victory points, opponent victory points, and total points. If the game was declared as non-counting, a line next to the game will state that the game is non-counting and for what school. If the line says NonCntVis, the game is non-counting for the visiting school; likewise, if it says NonCntHm, the game is non-counting for the home school.

The Frequency of Power Rankings Updates

The power rankings are updated on the AIA website in real time. It's the responsibility of the home school to enter the result of the game. When the school enters the result of their home game, the power rankings are immediately updated on the website.

Sports/Conferences Utilizing the APRS Matrix

The 2A, 3A, 4A and 5A conferences use the APRS Matrix in baseball, basketball, softball, and volleyball (girls). The APRS Matrix is also used in the 4A and 5A conferences in soccer and team tennis, and the 2A and 3A conferences in football.

In badminton, volleyball (boys) and 4A and 5A football, the APRS Matrix is not utilized. Regardless of the conference/division level played, a school earns 70 points for a win in badminton, 85 points for a win in volleyball (boys), and 50 points for a win in 4A and 5A football. In each of those three sports, a school earns five points for each one of their opponent's victories, regardless of the conference/division level played.

How Conferences Utilize the APRS

The conferences will use power rankings in different ways to seed regional and/or state tournaments. In the 2A Conference for football, the five regular season league champions will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament along with 11 at-large qualifiers. All 16 teams will be seeded according to power ranking. For baseball, basketball, softball, and volleyball (girls), power rankings will not be used to seed the state tournament, but rather the regional tournaments. The top four teams from each regional tournament (16 total teams) will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament.

In the 3A Conference for football, baseball and softball (excluding the North region in baseball and softball), the regular season region champions will be seeded #1, #2, #3, and #4 in the tournament according to their regular season power ranking. If two teams are tied for first place in a region, power rankings will serve as the tie breaker. The second place and third place teams from each region's regular season will earn an automatic berth into the state tournament along with four at-large qualifiers and will be seeded #5-16 according to the power rankings.

In the 3A Conference for basketball and volleyball, (including the North region in baseball and softball), region tournament champions will be seeded #1, #2, #3, and #4 in the state tournament according to regular season power ranking. The second place and third place teams from each region tournament will earn an automatic berth into the state tournament along with four at-large qualifiers and will be seeded #5-16 according to the power rankings.

In the 4A Conference for football, each region champion will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament along with 11 at-large qualifiers and be seeded #1-16 according to power ranking. In badminton, combined tournament for Division I and II, two teams from each region (as determined by the region) will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament and will be seeded #1-8 according to the power rankings.

In the 4A Conference for baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, tennis, and girls volleyball, two teams from each region (as determined by the region) will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament along with six at-large qualifiers and be seeded #1-16 according to power ranking.

In the 5A Conference for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, tennis, and girls volleyball, each region champion will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament along with 10 at-large qualifiers and be seeded #1-16 according to power ranking. In badminton, combined tournament for Division I and II, two teams from each region, based on regular season standings, will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament along with eight at-large qualifiers and will be seeded #1-16 according to the power rankings.

In Division I and Division II volleyball (boys), each region champ will earn an automatic berth to the state tournament, with the remaining spots to be filled based on the power rankings. There will be two separate 16-team state tournaments in volleyball (boys).

Media Contact: Brian Bolitho; AIA Director of Media Marketing; bbolitho@aiaonline.org; 602-385-3822