

Some people are wasting their time with some of this pie-in-the-sky talk. The universities in the BCS conferences form a majority of the entire Division 1-A membership, whether we like that or not. We simply have to be realistic and deal with what there is to deal with. There are many entities which would fight a 16-team playoff structure right now and many have very legitimate reasons for doing so. I don't believe, however, that a radical change is something that's necessary in order to ensure a greater degree of fairness. There are modest ideas which could gain the acceptance of a broad group of parties more easily than a radical change and also establish some significant improvement in the system as well as do so without leaving the appearance of giving a 'handout' to universities who are currently not in one of the BCS conferences. First, the conference tie-ins of the BCS bowls should be abolished with the possible exception of the Rose Bowl who, it is reported, wishes to return to its traditional format of hosting the Big Ten and Pacific Ten champions. In place of the conference tie-in's there should be a single, official NCAA-certified national championship game which rotates among the other three current BCS bowls and the revenue from this game being distributed in similar fashion to the way in which revenue from the NCAA men's basketball championship is distributed. The participants in the official national championship game would be winners of two semifinal games, played at the other BCS bowl sites the week previous to the championship but after the New Year's Day bowl games. Also, the revenue from the national semifinals would be distributed the same way as that from the national championship game. The participants in the national semifinals games would be the top 4 teams in the nation, according to a ranking that takes into account won/loss records as well as strength-of-schedule and would be seeded no. 1 through no. 4 with the top-seeded team playing the fourth-seeded team in one national semifinal and the second and third seeded teams in the other. I believe that is a fair proposal that properly rewards on-field performance but also ends the cartel aspect of the BCS without completely destroying the traditions of the bowl games or making the season too long. Yes, the teams in the national finals would be playing 15 games, provided that they were playing a 12-game schedule and in a conference championship, but if there only an 11-game schedule along with a conference championship and 16-team playoff, as some proposals are, then those two teams would be playing 16 games in a year.