

First order of business, commission an independent third party to develop a comprehensive rating system based on sound statistical theory with weighting factors backed up by verifiable research. The third party should be one with no stake in the issue. The Mathematics department at MIT would be a good start.

Now the "playoff" My idea starts with 12 teams. In addition to ranking the 117 Div IA teams the system ranks the conferences as well.

- 1) The champions of the top eight rated conferences get automatic bids to the post season
- 2) The four highest rated teams not getting an automatic bid qualify for an at-large spot.
- 3) The top four rated teams get first round byes.
- 4) Round one is played at four sites, The Citrus Bowl, Liberty Bowl, Cotton Bowl and Holiday Bowl on or around Christmas
- 5) Round two places the winners of round one vs the four byes at the four current BCS bowl sites on or shortly after New Year's Day
- 6) The Semi's and Title game are played in the following two weeks at major facilities suitable for such events.

This system provides ONE rule set for ALL and favors no particular group. It keeps the biggest bowls around for the biggest games. It ENHANCES the meaning of the regular season and returns the conferences to premier status they deserve while still letting the best runner ups or a great team from a bad conference a chance. Does NOT interfere with academics at all.

What do you think?