

AFTER BOWL BCS CHAMPIONSHIP

In early January after the traditional New Year's bowls are completed, match only the top two bowl-winning teams using the Bowl Championship Series rankings.

This change will create more excitement for the New Year's bowls that have lost their luster because only the championship game and Rose Bowl, if it has a Pac 10 and Big 10 matchup, is meaningful. It will give the feeling of a playoff without actually having one while maintaining and enhancing the tradition of college football.

The other bowls would have interest revived because a conference bowl record component would be added to the final BCS rankings to determine the Final Four.

This plan will generate tens of millions of dollars and add more interest to more bowl games and regular season games, especially conference matchups for teams who have already lost, yet still maintain that sudden-death feeling by the outcome of each game. It would be fairer in identifying a champion because of the disparity of schedules from conference to conference doesn't mean a no-loss team is better than a one-loss team

The BCS would expand the BCS bowls from the existing four bowls to five bowls. This plan would diffuse anti-trust issues and allow more access from non-BCS conferences for such past teams as Tulane, Marshall and TCU.

That's means 10 teams playing in those BCS bowls instead of the current 8 teams. The BCS can follow tradition and have the Big 10 and Pac 10 play in the Rose Bowl.

To follow other traditions, the SEC champ would play in the Sugar Bowl. Other conference champs could be seeded to other bowls such as the ACC to the Orange Bowl and the Big 12 champ to the Fiesta Bowl.

Once conference champs are set at their bowls, matchups would be determined by using a 1 versus 10 formula where possible and so on down the line. Conference teams would not play each other.

The BCS can fill those 10 slots by having the top six-ranked conference champs in the BCS rankings get bids, no matter their conference.

Any conference champ that finishes in the top 10 in the BCS rankings or whose historic conference champion ranking in the BCS standings is 15 or better would get one of the 10 berths. This system protects the powerhouse football conferences and the revenue they are counting on when they have a down year yet provides access to non-BCS conferences when teams have a great year and are one of the top six ranked conference champs ^ something that has happened several times.

Drawing from the BCS rankings, the remaining at-large spots would be filled by non-conference champs and independents. One option could guarantee a bid to any independent if they finish in the top 10 of the BCS standings or to treat them as other at-large teams vying for the remaining at-large spots.

Revenue could be divided to conferences based in part on their historical participation in the BCS games, a team,s accomplishment in a given year, or both.

To determine the Final Two, any team that loses its bowl would not be eligible, even if it wound up in the top two in the rankings. The bowls serve as a type of elimination playoff.

A conference that went 4-2 in bowls, for example would have two points deducted from the BCS score of teams within that conference. Any team that was undefeated prior to the new calculations could be immune from having points added to its score if its conference fared poorly in bowl games.

The championship game ^ called the Championship

Bowl or National Championship Bowl ^ would be played the first available weekend after the bowls ^ a time when school is not in session. Cities across the country would bid to host this game.

Teams that advance to the Final Two could have spring practice time reduced.

In review, the Bowl Championship Series has come under harsh criticism by some but it has revived interest in college football and is better than what was used in the past in matching the top two teams. But a modified BCS system can be a framework for being more inclusive and generating more excitement and revenue.

The reason the interest in college football has been revived is because fans recognize the BCS as the closest thing in history to finally identifying a true champion. This plan would fulfill those wishes even more.