

BIG TEN DIVISIONAL TIEBREAKER

The participants in the Big Ten Football Championship Game and all other Big Ten Champions Week matchups will be determined by the following tiebreaker. The Big Ten championship will be decided by a game played between the two division champions. A team or teams that are not eligible to participate in a postseason football bowl game as a result of NCAA and/or Big Ten sanctions shall not be eligible to participate in the Big Ten Football Championship Game. The winner of the Big Ten Football Championship Game will represent the conference in one of the bowls that comprise the College Football Playoff - the Cotton, Fiesta, Orange, Peach, Rose or Sugar Bowl. If the Big Ten Champion is ranked No. 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the final College Football Playoff poll, the team will play in a semifinal game. Otherwise, the Big Ten Champion will play in the Rose Bowl Game (when not hosting a semifinal) or the Cotton, Fiesta or Peach Bowl.

A team must play at least six games to be considered for participation in the championship game. However, if the average number of conference games played by all teams falls below six, with the average rounded up/down at .50 (i.e. 6.50 or greater would round up to 7, 6.49 or less would round down to 6), then teams must play no less than two fewer conference games than the average number of conference games played by all teams (i.e. four games played if the conference average is six) to be considered.

The championship game participant and division champion from each division will be determined by the following:

- With all conference games completed, the best winning percentage in all conference games.
- In the event of an unbalanced schedule due to cancellation of games:
 - If two (or more) teams have the same number of conference losses but a different number of conference wins, head-to-head results will take precedence over winning percentage, as long as the two (or more) teams meet minimum number of games language noted above.
 - If the game was cancelled between two teams with the same winning percentage in all conference games or the same number of conference losses but a different number of conference wins, move to tiebreaker for two teams below.
 - If a game or games was cancelled between three or more teams with the same winning percentage in all conference games or the same number of conference losses but a different number of conference wins, move to tiebreaker for three or more teams below.
 - The team or teams with the best winning percentage in all conference games and both championship game participants will earn at least a share of the division championship.

The following procedure will determine the championship game participant and/or division champion from each division, along with all other Big Ten Champions Week matchups, in the event of a tie per above language:

- A. If two teams are tied per above language, steps 1 through 8 will be followed until a determination is made:

1. The winner of the game between the two tied teams shall be the representative. If the game was cancelled between the two teams, move to next step in tiebreaker.
2. The records of the two tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage within their division:
 - (a) In the event of an unbalanced schedule:
 - i. If two teams have the same number of division losses but a different number of division wins, move to next step in tiebreaker.
 - ii. If two teams have a different number of division losses, the teams will be compared based on winning percentage within their division.
3. The records of the two tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage against the next highest placed teams in their division in order of finish (3, 4, 5, 6, and 7):
 - (a) When arriving at a group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record based on winning percentage against the collective tied teams as a group, rather than record against the individual teams.
 - (b) In the event of an unbalanced schedule:
 - i. If one or both teams did not play a certain team, move to the next highest placed teams in their division in order of finish.
 - ii. If one or both teams did not play all teams in the group of tied teams, move to the next highest placed team or teams in their division in order of finish.
 - iii. If one or both teams did not play the lowest placed team in their division, move to next step in tiebreaker.
4. The records of the two tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage against all common conference opponents.
5. The records of the two tied teams will be compared based on the best cumulative conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents:
 - (a) Example: East 1 non-divisional opponents are 20-7, East 2 non-divisional opponents are 19-8 – East 1 would be the representative.
 - (b) In the event of an unbalanced schedule, the records of the two tied teams will be compared based on the best cumulative conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents, regardless of how many non-divisional opponents each team played. If one or both teams played no non-divisional opponents, move to next step in tiebreaker.
6. The records of the two tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage against the highest placed non-divisional teams in their division order of finish (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7):
 - (a) When arriving at a group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record based on winning percentage against the collective tied teams as a group, rather than record against the individual teams.
 - (b) When comparing records against a single team or a group of teams, the record will prevail, even if the number of games played against the team or group are unequal (i.e. 1-0 is better than 0-0, 2-0 is better than 1-0, etc.).

7. The team with the best overall winning percentage [excluding exempted games] shall be the representative, regardless of number of games played.
8. The representative will be chosen by random draw.

B. If three or more teams are tied per above language, steps 1 through 8 will be followed until a determination is made. If only two teams remain tied after any step (or sub-step), the winner of the game between the two tied teams shall be the representative. If the game between the two teams was cancelled, move to two-team tiebreaker above. If three or more teams remain tied after any step, move to next step in tiebreaker with remaining tied teams.

1. The records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage in games between the tied teams:
 - (a) Example: East 1 is 2-0 in games between the tied teams with wins over East 2 and 3 - East 1 would be the representative.
 - (b) In the event of an unbalanced schedule, if one or multiple teams did not play all teams in the group of tied teams, move to next step in tiebreaker.
2. The records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage within their division:
 - (a) In the event of an unbalanced schedule:
 - i. If all teams have the same number of division losses but a different number of division wins, move to next step in tiebreaker.
 - ii. If all teams have a different number of division losses, the teams will be compared based on winning percentage within their division.
 - iii. If some teams have one division loss and some teams have two or more division losses, the teams will be compared based on winning percentage within their division. If multiple teams are separated from the group with the best winning percentage, move to next step in tiebreaker with those teams.
3. The records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage against the next highest placed teams in their division in order of finish (4, 5, 6, and 7):
 - (a) When arriving at a group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record based on winning percentage against the collective tied teams as a group, rather than record against the individual teams.
 - (b) In the event of an unbalanced schedule:
 - i. If one or all teams did not play a certain team, move to the next highest placed teams in their division in order of finish.
 - ii. If one or all teams did not play all teams in the group of tied teams, move to the next highest placed teams in their division in order of finish.
 - iii. If one or all teams did not play the lowest placed team in their division, move to next step in tiebreaker.
4. The records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage against all common conference opponents.
5. The records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on the best cumulative conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents:

- (a) Example: East 1 non-divisional opponents are 20-7, East 2 non-divisional opponents are 19-8, East 3 non-divisional opponents are 14-13 – East 1 would be the representative.
 - (b) In the event of an unbalanced schedule, the records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on the best cumulative conference winning percentage of non-divisional opponents, regardless of how many non-divisional opponents each team played. If one or more teams played no non-divisional opponents, move to next step in tiebreaker.
6. The records of the three (or more) tied teams will be compared based on winning percentage against the highest placed non-divisional teams in their division order of finish (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7):
 - (a) When arriving at a group of tied teams while comparing records, use each team's record based on winning percentage against the collective tied teams as a group, rather than record against the individual teams.
 - (b) When comparing records against a single team or a group of teams, the record will prevail, even if the number of games played against the team or group are unequal (i.e. 1-0 is better than 0-0, 2-0 is better than 1-0, etc.)
 7. The team with the best overall winning percentage [excluding exempted games] shall be the representative, regardless of number of games played.
 8. The representative will be chosen by random draw.

If one or both of the Big Ten division champions is ineligible to play in the Big Ten Championship Game, then the participant(s) in the Big Ten Championship Game shall be determined by the following procedure:

- a) If the ineligible team is tied for the division championship, then the team it tied with shall be the Big Ten Championship Game representative.
- b) If two or more teams are tied with an ineligible team for the division championship, then the ineligible team is removed and the remaining teams revert to the tie-break procedure.
- c) The division runner-up shall be the Big Ten Championship Game representative.
- d) If there is a division runner-up tie, then the tied teams shall revert to the tie-break procedure.

If the championship game cannot be played (due to any reason beyond the control of the Big Ten Conference), the two division champions (using divisional tie-breakers as set forth above) shall be declared co-champions and the following procedure will be used to determine the Big Ten Conference representative to the College Football Playoff:

- a) Teams ranked No. 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the final College Football Playoff poll will automatically be placed in the College Football Playoff.
- b) If the two divisional representatives met previously in the season and neither is ranked No. 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the final College Football Playoff poll, the team ranked highest in the final poll shall be the representative to the College Football Playoff, unless the other team is ranked within five or fewer places of the higher ranked team. In this case, the head-to-head results of the two teams shall determine the conference's representative.
- c) If the two divisional representatives did not meet previously during the season, the team ranked highest in the College Football Playoff poll shall be the representative.

- d) If the two teams are tied in the College Football Playoff poll, the team with the best overall Big Ten record based on winning percentage shall be the representative.
- e) If the two teams remain tied after d), the team with the best combined record based on winning percentage of the tied teams against all common Big Ten opponents each team played that season shall be the representative.
- f) If the two teams remain tied after e), the representative will be the team with the best overall winning percentage.
- g) If the two teams remain tied after f), the representative will be the team furthest removed from College Football Playoff, Bowl Championships Series or Rose Bowl Game participation (as appropriate).
- h) If the two teams remain tied after g), the representative shall be determined by a random draw.