

# RANKING CRITERIA

## IHSSCA RANKING COMMITTEE

This document provides guidelines to the Iowa High School Soccer Coaches Association (IHSSCA) Ranking Committee members when voting for teams in their weekly ranking.

Pay careful attention to the criteria provided below. The IHSSCA Ranking Committee developed these criteria to establish a clear, consistent, and defensible rationale for each week's ranking. Each member must conscientiously and consistently follow these criteria in every vote.

It is not permitted to deviate from the established criteria nor develop personal criteria. If a member believes that alternative or additional criteria should be established, then they must propose an amendment to their respective classification subcommittee chairperson. Only after the entire Ranking Committee has formally adopted the new or alternative criteria may any member apply those criteria in voting. Each classification ranking subcommittee chairperson is responsible to ensure their respective subcommittee members are following the established criteria.

Foremost, the ranking criteria are **RESULTS ORIENTED**. This means that no matter which team a ranking committee member thinks is the stronger side results determine the ranking. For example, even if a committee member watches a game and a team dominates the match in every way while outshooting their opponent 50 to 1 but loses on a fluke goal, the team that lost must be ranked lower than the opposing side. The results oriented criteria follow below:

IHSSCA Ranking Committee members shall apply the following criteria when ranking teams:

1. Head-to-head competition.
2. Results against common opponent(s). Results compared in the following order of higher value:
  - a. Win in regular time;
  - b. Win in overtime;
  - c. Win in penalty-kick shootout;
  - d. Loss in penalty-kick shootout;
  - e. Loss in overtime; and
  - f. Loss in regular time.

Relative score against a common opponent shall not be considered when ranking two teams unless the relative margin of victory is five (5) or more goals greater and all other criteria listed herein cannot settle the ranking.

**Margin of Victory Example:**

Team A and B both play common opponent C. If A wins 4-0 and B wins 2-1, give both wins equal weight. If A wins 6-0 and B wins 2-1, then give A's win higher value than B's because A's margin of victory of +6 is five goals greater than B's margin of victory of +1.

However, only consider this greater weight relevant if all other ranking criteria cannot settle the ranks of A and B.

3. Record against ranked opponents with penalty-kick shootout win/loss considered a tie.
4. Least number of losses against unranked opponents with penalty-kick shootout win/loss considered a tie.
5. Most wins against ranked opponents with penalty-kick shootout win/loss considered a tie.
6. Overall record.
7. After the third week of play, only teams with a winning record against teams of their same classification may be ranked.

E.g., Team A is a class 2A school with an overall record of 3-4-0 after the third week of competition. Initially, it would appear that Team A could not be ranked; however, three of Team A's losses are against 3A schools and one of its wins is against a 1A school. Therefore, team A's record in their classification is 2-1-0, which would make them eligible for ranking.

8. Conflicting results when applying the above criteria will be determined by applying the judgment of each voting member.

E.g., Team A beats Team B in head-to-head competition but Team B has superior results against common opponents, a better record against ranked opponents, and a better overall record; then a voting member could rank B above A when in his/her judgment B's overall body of work in the criteria established in (1)-(7) merits a higher ranking.

9. A voting member **may** also give more recent performance merit when ranking a team.