

## FIX COLLEGE FOOTBALL!

A reasonable proposal to implement a playoff system that  
creates a true national champion.

JOIN THE OUTCRY!

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**Updated: December 6, 2009.**

Controversy reigns again with the Bowl Championship Series (BCS). Once again one team feels it got shafted out of playing for a national championship. This year, TCU is not only snubbed from playing Alabama for the championship, they do not play Florida in what would have been the second-best matchup. Making two non-BCS teams play each other is insulting and only designed to protect the BCS conferences from losing to “weaker” schools.

But the BCS, with all its problems, is only a symptom of a more problematic college football system. One where non-traditional powerhouses are punished “for the sins of their fathers.” Any system where a school gets the benefit of the doubt due to “tradition” is wrong.

Before we begin, the BCS SHOULD get credit for a few things. First and foremost, college football was meant to be where every game mattered, especially the regular season. The BCS should get praised because despite all the controversy, the bowl games and the ratings have never been better.

But we all forget the real scandal: Look at the hoops Boise State had to go through to even be considered for a BCS bowl game all these years. The real issue is that almost half of the teams in Division I-A, right off the bat, have no realistic chance to win the national championship.

If you are in a Division I-A school, and you have no chance to play for a national title, *what are you playing for?* “Separate but equal?”

ANY SPORTS SYSTEM, WHERE AROUND 40% OF THE TEAMS DON'T EVEN HAVE A THEORETICAL CHANCE OF WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, IS INHERENTLY FRAUDULENT.

On top of that, many conferences not in the BCS cannot generate revenue needed to compete in football, or other sports. These smaller schools already have been pressured to cut other sports teams, mainly men's teams due to Title IX. This continued cycle of injustice threatens men's and women's sports at these colleges.

A lot of media commentators easily say “playoff, playoff, playoff.” Not me. I don't want to replace this format with a format where favoritism would reign supreme. Does anyone really think Notre Dame wouldn't be voted ahead of Boise State, for example? Until the playing field is reasonably level at the start, any proposal will replace one controversy for another.

*I make a simple proposal: Divide the 120 teams to 8 super-conferences, and have a conference champion-only playoff. The current BCS is 5 games; it is NOT unreasonable to figure out a schedule to put in the two additional games needed.*

Then, there are no polls, no politics, no computers, no real controversy unless some official

on the field screws up.

Enclosed is a detailed realignment and playoff format. There would be minimal movement among the 6 major conferences, but there is some moderate sacrifice here and there. The teams are geographically moved to “alliances,” which still allow enough games for other rivalries.

*Updated for the newer version includes an alternate proposal that added two conferences to the BCS and creates a conference-champion only playoff among only those schools, demoting non-BCS schools to a new division between the level of I-A and the old “I-AA” division.*

In my opinion, the current Bowl Championship Series by principle is a gross violation of interstate commerce laws (primarily fraud) and this is one area Congress SHOULD get involved in.

I appreciate all comments and hope you contact your college, media, Congressman, whoever you feel it takes to get this done. It’s time college football stops feeding off controversy with its unfair, probably illegal college football system. The game deserves better.

Thank you.

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P.S.: If there is a mistake, let me know, I’ll look it over and fix it. It’s the concept I’m promoting, so it’s cool if you catch a mistake. Thanks.

## **THE NEW ALLIANCES**

Again, the base for most of these alliances will be from the major conferences. Smaller conferences are disregarded for college football only, and their teams realigned by geography. Teams won't have to join an alliance. They could choose to go independent. But if they do, they won't get an opportunity to play in the BCS. (This is not a precedent; the Ivy League of the I-AA division chooses not to participate in the I-AA playoffs).

### **All-American Alliance 14 teams**

*Championship: San Antonio, Texas*

Eastern: Houston, Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, Rice, SMU, Tulane, and UTEP.

Western: Brigham Young, Fresno State, New Mexico, San Diego State, UNLV, Utah, and Wyoming.

### **Atlantic Alliance 16 teams**

*Championship: Tampa, Florida*

Coastal: Boston College, Buffalo, Duke, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Maryland, Virginia, and Virginia Tech.

Eastern: Clemson, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Marshall, Miami (FL), and Wake Forest.

### **Great Lakes Alliance 14 teams**

*Championship: Indianapolis, Indiana*

Eastern: Central Michigan, Michigan, Michigan State, Miami (OH), Ohio, Ohio State, and Penn State.

Western: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Northwestern, Purdue, and Wisconsin.

### **Northern Alliance 14 teams**

*Championship: Cincinnati, Ohio*

Eastern: Ball State, Bowling Green, Connecticut, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Syracuse, and Temple.

Western: Eastern Michigan, Cincinnati, Kent State, Louisville, Notre Dame, West Virginia, and Western Michigan.

**Pacific Alliance**  
**16 teams**

*Championship: San Francisco, California*

Northern: Air Force, Boise State, Idaho, Oregon, Oregon State, San Jose State, Washington, and Washington State.

Southern: Arizona, Arizona State, California, Hawai'i, New Mexico State, Stanford, Southern Cal, and UCLA.

**Patriot Alliance**  
**14 Teams**

*Championship: St. Louis, Missouri*

Northern: Akron, Army, East Carolina, Middle Tennessee, Navy, Northern Illinois, and Toledo.

Southern: Alabama-Birmingham, Baylor, Louisiana Tech, Southern Mississippi, Troy, Tulsa, and Western Kentucky.

**Southern Alliance**  
**16 Teams**

*Championship: Atlanta, Georgia*

Eastern: Central Florida, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, South Florida, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt.

Western: Alabama, Arkansas, Arkansas State, Auburn, LSU, Memphis, Mississippi, and Mississippi State.

**Super 16 Alliance**  
**16 teams**

*Championship: Dallas, Texas.*

Northern: Colorado, Colorado State, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Nebraska, Nevada, and Utah State.

Southern: Baylor, Missouri, North Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech.

## **THE PLAYOFFS (Main proposal)**

The alliances are divided by region. Each conference championship is held the first weekend of December. The BCS quarterfinals are held two weeks later. Semifinals on January 1. Final on January 10.

The argument that these games would not sell out is nonsense. The NCAA has 63 official basketball tournament games, not including the “play-in” game. Some early round venues don’t sell out but they get an incredible television contract. We’re talking seven games here and the BCS already shows it can sell out five.

First round games in this proposal are regional for that very reason. The semifinal at the Rose Bowl is so entrenched in tradition that it will sell out regardless. And how can a national championship NOT sell out?

This formula even protects the four traditional superpower conferences. The Rose Bowl still would have the traditional Pac-10 Champion vs. the Big Ten Champion matchup if they win out the first round.

### **BCS Quarterfinals:**

**Cotton Bowl-** *Dallas, Texas:* Super 16 Alliance Champion (the old Big 12) vs. Patriot Alliance Champion.

**Fiesta Bowl-** *San Diego, California:* All-American Alliance Champion vs. Pacific Alliance Champion (the old Pac 10).

**Chik-Fil-A Bowl-** *Atlanta, Georgia:* Atlantic Alliance Champion vs. Southern Alliance Champion.

**Sugar Bowl-** *New Orleans, Louisiana:* Northern Alliance Champion vs. Great Lakes Alliance Champion.

### **BCS Semifinals:**

**Rose Bowl-** *Pasadena, California:* Fiesta Bowl Champion vs. Cotton Bowl Champion.

**Orange Bowl-** *Miami, Florida:* Chik-Fil-A Bowl Champion vs. Sugar Bowl Champion.

### **BCS Championship:**

**Alternates between the six BCS cities:** Fiesta Bowl Champion vs. Orange Bowl Champion.

## **THE PLAYOFFS (Alternate proposal)**

Suppose we are not able to realign all teams to eight super-conferences? Here is the alternate proposal:

The main six BCS conferences do not change names per se, but it'll look foolish for some conferences as they will be required to have at least 14 teams *for football only*. Two conferences are added to the BCS, most likely Conference USA and the WAC. Any team not accepted into the BCS will play in a new division one tier below I-A ("I-AA"), and the deviously named "Bowl Championship Subdivision" (what we all call "I-AA") is changed to "I-AAA," etc.

Notre Dame can play in Division I-A, but MUST join a conference or is ineligible for the BCS.

From there, teams must win their conference championship game to enter the BCS in a conference-champion only playoff.

As with the previous formula, there is a regional approach, making it more likely to sell out the venues.

### **BCS Quarterfinals:**

**Cotton Bowl-** *Dallas, Texas:* Big 12 Champion vs. Conference USA Champion.

**Fiesta Bowl-** *San Diego, California:* WAC Champion vs. Pac 10 Champion.

**Chik-Fil-A Bowl-** *Atlanta, Georgia:* SEC Champion vs. ACC Champion.

**Sugar Bowl-** *New Orleans, Louisiana:* Big East Champion vs. Big Ten Champion.

### **BCS Semifinals:**

**Rose Bowl-** *Pasadena, California:* Fiesta Bowl Champion vs. Cotton Bowl Champion.

**Orange Bowl-** *Miami, Florida:* Chik-Fil-A Bowl Champion vs. Sugar Bowl Champion.

### **BCS Championship:**

**Alternates between BCS host cities:** Fiesta Bowl Champion vs. Orange Bowl Champion.

Dennis Justice is available to speak to Members of Congress as one of many disgusted sports fans.

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