



FOOTBALL RANKINGS INFORMATION PACKAGE - 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson: SSA Football Commissioner, Ian Rattan

North Representative (NC/NW/NE): Vince Orieux

Edmonton Representative: Michelle Ross

Central Representative: Joe McQuay

Calgary Representative: David Holowaychuk

South Representative (SC/South): Jason Jensen

Football Alberta (non-voting member): Tim Enger

SSA Office (non-voting member): Deryk Venance

RANKING GUIDELINES

ROLE OF THE RANKER

- Communicate with the other rankers and the Commissioner during each ranking period to ensure their region is represented accurately in the rankings
- Present an unbiased view of the results
- Determine an overall provincial ranking based on results
- Create a provincial draw that is fair

RANKINGS

School Sport Alberta does football rankings for the 5A classification only.

The goal of creating rankings is to:

- Create the most balanced and competitive provincial draw ensuring each team and zone is represented fairly
- Inform teams where they stand in relation to their competition
- Create buzz surrounding performance in our province

FIRST RANKINGS

Scores are reviewed weekly from the beginning of the season to the end of September.

Communication between rankers commences after the opt-up deadline to confirm eligible teams and discuss initial observations to determine the top 10.. These rankings are intended to build a solid foundation. The order of criteria will be:

- Body of Work
- Head to Head
- Common Opponents

FINAL RANKING PERIOD AND PROVINCIAL SEEDING

Scores continue to be reviewed weekly throughout October with final rankings in early November. Provincial seedings are based on the top 8 teams from the final rankings. Seedings may differ from final rankings to ensure no zone playoff rematches in opening round games. The criteria will be:

- Body of Work
- Zone Championship Results
- Head to Head
- Common Opponents

It is the responsibility of the Ranking Committee to produce the most competitive provincial draw based on the top 8 ranked teams. The goal is to have a balanced draw that best reflects the entire season. The seedings will avoid opening round games matching up two teams from the same league or zone provided that the integrity of the draw is not compromised.

**Note: Undefeated teams at the time of final rankings are guaranteed a spot in the top 8.*

RANKING CRITERIA

BODY OF WORK

The following components, not in order of importance, are factored in when looking at a team's overall body of work:

- Overall Record - team's win/loss record
- Strength of Schedule
 - Team's overall record include games against quality opponents? (Top 5 ranked 5A or Top 3 ranked 4A opponent)
 - Record against quality teams?
 - Were the teams quality wins at the beginning of the season or near the end?
 - Did the team make an effort to play teams from outside of their zone?
 - What bad losses did the team suffer?

HEAD TO HEAD RESULTS

Head to head matchups are critical when comparing teams. However, they do not trump everything else that occurs during the season. If Team A defeats Team B in August, that result will be used when ranking the teams during the first ranking period. During the final rankings, the result will count towards a team's body of work and will be used to break a tie for teams.

COMMON OPPONENTS

Similar to head to head results, common opponents will be used when comparing two teams. It is too difficult to start with head to head results and common opponents when completing the rankings. They are useful though when determining where a team deserves to be ranked after evaluating the body of work and strength of schedule.

**Each ranker will use these guidelines to assess the body of work. The individual ranker will bring their own subjectivity to the rankings with emphasis placed more on certain areas of the criteria.*

RANKING TIMELINE

Period	Description	5A
First Ranking	Opt-up Application Deadline - Only teams registered in 5A by October 1 are eligible to be ranked. Schools may not rescind their opt-up decision.	Sept 25, 2026
Aug 15 - Sept 30	Deadline for all teams to have submitted game results. Rankers review SRS for game results for the first period and submit their top 10 into the ranking system for viewing by other rankers.	Sept 30, 2026
	Zoom meeting for discussion to attempt to reach consensus on Top 10. If no consensus, each ranker will finalize their own submission.	Oct 1, 2026 7:00pm
	Chairperson (Commissioner) to finalize the rankings (including breaking any ties) and submit to the SSA Office to publish on the website by noon.	Oct 2, 2026 12:00pm
Final Rankings	Deadline for all teams to have submitted game results, unless they play a game that ends later. Regional representatives communicated the final game result for discussion. Rankers review SRS for game results for the final period and submit their top 10 into the ranking system for viewing by other rankers by 7:00pm	Nov 7, 2026 6:00 pm
Oct 1 - Nov 7	Zoom meeting for discussion to attempt to reach consensus top 10. If no consensus, each ranker will finalize their submission. Chairperson (Commissioner) to finalize the rankings (including breaking any ties) and report to the Ranking Committee by 8:00 pm. After the final rankings are completed, the Ranking Committee will create the SSA Provincial draw by seeding the top 8 teams. It is the responsibility of the Committee to produce the most competitive draw. The goal is to have a balanced draw that best reflects the entire season. The seedings will avoid opening round games matching up two teams from the same league or zone provided that the integrity of the draw is not compromised.	Nov 7, 2026 9:00 pm
	Playoff schedule and brackets published on the School Sport Alberta website.	Nov 7, 2026 10:00 pm
Appeals Process	Schools wishing to appeal the final rankings and/or draw will be able to in accordance with the timeline below: 2:00 pm: Deadline to submit appeal 7:00 pm: Pre-scheduled meeting of the Ranking Committee to review any appeals 9:00 pm: If the appeal is successful, updated Final Rankings are posted on the School Sport Alberta website Appeals must be accompanied by \$50 payment. The SSA Football Commissioner will consult with the Rankings Committee based on the information available, and, with the approval of the Executive Director, will render a decision to the school. If the appeal results in a change to the rankings and/or draw and the subsequent inclusion of the appellant school, the \$50 will be refunded to the school. Appeals will only be considered if it has been submitted by the deadline and includes a complete season record along with a suggested alternate ranking.	Nov 8, 2026
ALBERTA BOWL @ MEDICINE HAT: NOV 27 - 28, 2026		