

RIP BCS: College Football Finally Moves to Playoff System

by Anthony Caruso on July 13, 2012

Division 1 college football is finally moving to a playoff system, after years of public outcry over the current method used to select the national champion. Starting in 2014, the controversial Bowl Championship Series will be replaced with a four-team playoff system.

Here's how it will work:

- A committee will select the four teams using criteria such as strength of schedule, head-to-head results and regular season record. The committee will give preference to conference champions. No. 1 will play No. 4, and No. 2 will play No. 3
- The two semifinals will rotate among six locations, including the four current BCS bowls (Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, and Orange Bowl). The remaining two venues are yet to be determined. The location of the championship game will be decided much like the NFL Super Bowl, where interested cities will compete in a bidding process.
- The semifinals will be played on Dec. 31 and/or Jan. 1. The championship game will always be played on the first Monday that is at least six days after the semifinals. The first "Championship Monday" is slated for Jan. 12, 2015.

The new format will last for at least 12 years, as the NCAA will begin negotiating a 12-year television rights deal this fall. Many speculate that the new deal will be extremely lucrative for the NCAA, likely worth at least double what the BCS was worth.