



## 2015 Bowl Selection Process

### CFP BOWLS (Cotton (SF), Orange (SF), Fiesta, Sugar, Peach, Rose, CFP National Championship)

Contract Bowls:      Sugar (SEC vs. Big 12 when Sugar is not a semifinal game)  
                                 Rose (Pac 12 vs. Big Ten when Rose is not a semifinal game)  
                                 **Orange** (ACC vs. highest ranked SEC/Big Ten non-champion or Notre  
                                 Dame when Orange is not a semifinal game; **Semifinal in 2015**)

Access Bowls:         **Cotton (Semifinal in 2015)**  
                                 Fiesta  
                                 Peach

#### 1) Which SEC Team qualifies for the CFP?

The winner of the SEC Championship Game (December 5, 2015) automatically qualifies for a spot in the Sugar Bowl if that team is not selected to participate in the four-team playoff. If the SEC Champion is selected to participate in the four-team playoff then the next highest ranked SEC team in the CFP Selection Committee Rankings will represent the SEC in the Sugar Bowl. The top four teams in the CFP Standings will play in the semifinals (Orange and Cotton) with the winners advancing to the CFP National Championship Game in Glendale, Ariz. (Monday, January 11).

#### 2) How can additional SEC teams be selected for the CFP?

Additional SEC teams may be selected for one of the CFP access bowls (other than Cotton Bowl) based on its ranking in the final CFP Selection Committee rankings. There is no limit on the number of teams from any one conference that can be selected to participate in the CFP bowls.

#### 3) How can a SEC Team be selected to participate in the Orange Bowl?

**The Orange Bowl is a semifinal game in 2015 and teams will be selected by the CFP Selection Committee.** When the Orange Bowl is not a semifinal game and a SEC team is the highest ranked team among the non-champions of the SEC and Big Ten and ranked higher than Notre Dame (See Mississippi State in 2014) then that team will participate in the Orange Bowl. There are eight years in which the Orange Bowl is not a semifinal game and the SEC is guaranteed three of the eight years, the Big Ten is guaranteed three of the eight years and the remaining two years can be filled by Notre Dame, the SEC or the Big Ten based on CFP Selection Committee rankings. To be clear, the SEC Champion can never participate in the Orange Bowl unless it is a semifinal game.

4) How does the CFP selection process work in 2015?

The CFP Selection Committee ranks the top 25 teams and selects the four teams to participate in the semifinal games (Cotton and Orange). Then, after the contract bowls (Sugar and Rose) are filled based on conference agreements, the Committee will assign teams to fill the remaining access bowls (Fiesta and Peach). Each conference champion from the contract bowls (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, SEC & Pac 12) has a guaranteed spot in its contracted bowl or in an access bowl (Fiesta or Peach) if the contracted bowl is a semifinal game and the conference champion is not selected to participate in a semifinal game. The highest ranked champion from the Mountain West, American, Conference USA, Sun Belt or MAC is guaranteed a spot in a CFP bowl and the remaining spots are filled based on the rankings of teams after the contract bowls have been filled.

<u>Bowl</u>	<u>Contract Teams</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Cotton Bowl	Semifinal Game	December 31, 2015	4 pm or 8 pm ET*
Orange Bowl	Semifinal Game	December 31, 2015	4 pm or 8 pm ET*
Sugar Bowl	SEC vs. Big 12	January 1, 2016	8:30 p.m. ET
Rose Bowl	Big Ten vs. Pac 12	January 1, 2016	5 pm ET
Fiesta Bowl	Filled by CFP Selection Committee	January 1, 2016	1:00 pm ET
Peach Bowl	Filled by CFP Selection Committee	December 31, 2015	Noon ET
CFP NCG	Winners of Semifinal Games (Glendale, Ariz.)	January 11, 2016	8:30 pm ET

\* Time TBD on Selection Sunday

5) Where is the CFP National Championship Game played?

The CFP National Championship Game will be played in locations selected by the CFP. The 2016 CFP National Championship Game will be played in Glendale, Arizona on January 11, 2016. Tampa, Florida will host the 2017 game on January 9, 2017.

## SEC BOWLS

**CITRUS BOWL: (Orlando, FL) vs. Big 10 ▪ January 1 – 1 p.m. (ET) ABC**

After the CFP selection process the Citrus Bowl gets the first selection of available SEC Teams.

**POOL OF SIX BOWLS:** After the Citrus Bowl selects a team, there will be a pool of six bowls and the Conference, in consultation with the institutions and the bowls, will make the assignments for these six bowl games from all eligible SEC teams.

The pool of six bowls are as follows:

**Outback Bowl (Tampa, FL) vs. Big 10** ▪ January 1 – Noon (ET) **ESPN2**

**TaxSlayer Bowl (Jacksonville, FL) vs. Big Ten/ACC** ▪ January 2 – Noon (ET) **ESPN**

**Music City Bowl (Nashville, TN) vs. ACC/Big Ten** ▪ Dec 30 – 7:00 pm (ET) **ESPN**

**Texas Bowl (Houston, TX) vs. Big 12** ▪ December 29 – 9:00 pm (ET) **ESPN**

**Belk Bowl (Charlotte, NC) vs. ACC** ▪ December 30 – 3:30 pm (ET) **ESPN**

**Liberty Bowl (Memphis, TN) vs. Big 12** ▪ January 2 – 3:20 p.m. (ET) **ESPN**

### **BOWLS AFTER THE POOL OF SIX:**

**Birmingham Bowl (Birmingham, AL) vs. American** ▪ December 30 – Noon (ET) **ESPN**

The Birmingham Bowl selects after the CFP, Citrus Bowl and the Pool of Six Bowls (Outback Bowl, TaxSlayer Bowl, Music City Bowl, Texas Bowl, Belk Bowl and Liberty Bowl).

**Independence Bowl (Shreveport, LA) vs. ACC** ▪ December 26 – 5:45 p.m. (ET) **ESPN**

The Independence Bowl selects after the CFP, Citrus Bowl, the Pool of Six (Outback Bowl, TaxSlayer Bowl, Music City Bowl, Texas Bowl, Belk Bowl and Liberty Bowl) and the Birmingham Bowl.

**OPEN BOWLS:** Teams with six wins are eligible for selection to fill any “open bowl spot” outside the SEC contracted bowls and the two back up bowls.