

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP D1, MAA Session on Mathematics and Sports, I

1003-D1-158 **Richard E. Klima*** (klimare@appstate.edu), Appalachian State University, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Office 342, Walker Hall, Boone, NC 28608. *Some Sports-Related Election Methods and Ranking Procedures*. Preliminary report.

I will discuss several sports-related election methods and ranking procedures, with emphasis placed on examples that illustrate the important and/or controversial features of each. The topics discussed will include college football and basketball polls, the Heisman Memorial Trophy, and major league baseball's Most Valuable Player awards, each of which are awarded using the Borda count election method. In addition to briefly describing this method, I will describe some of the instances in which these elections have been concluded in controversy, including the final 1990-91 UPI college football poll, the 1956 Heisman Trophy, and the 1941 American League MVP award, each of which were likely influenced by the high manipulability of the method. Another topic discussed will be how the International Olympic Committee selects cities to host the summer and winter Olympic games. In addition to briefly describing the method used for these elections, the plurality-with-elimination method, I will in more detail describe how the specific elections in which the IOC selected Atlanta, Sydney, and Athens to host the three most recent summer Olympic games illustrate some important features of this method. (Received August 14, 2004)