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## Lax Power- continued...

**IN REG:** The most confusing part of looking at Lax Power is all the numbers and all of the columns. It seems pretty straight forward that the best team is listed on the top and has the highest power ranking. But for the purposes of the IHSLA rankings this isn't the case. Lax Power sorts the teams by their overall Power Rating or "Norm PR". This is the rating for all games the teams play, including out-of-state play. Remember, the IHSLA is only concerned with the games where Indiana teams play Indiana teams. The second column is listed, as "IN REG". This is the power ranking for 'In Region' play. This is the number that the IHSLA is concerned about. There is no way to automatically sort the rankings by these numbers. So you have to do a little sorting manually.

You might think that the out-of-state play added in to the overall power ranking would change things all that much, but in some cases it makes quite a bit of difference. Here's an example:

The Power Rankings for Indiana's top 5 teams, as of this writing go like this:

Culver Military – Norm PR 96.00 – In Reg 86.60  
St. Joseph's – Norm PR 94.25 – In Reg 86.00  
Zionsville – Norm PR 93.54 – In Reg 89.28  
Cathedral – Norm PR 91.41 – In Reg 91.72  
Guerin Catholic – Norm PR 91.13 – In Reg 88.23

Now even looking at this list you can see that the 'In Reg' ranking is different. So the Indiana ranking would have to be sorted differently, with Cathedral being the highest ranking of these. But to show how much difference there can be, look at the 'In Reg' Rankings at the time of this writing.

Carmel – In Reg 99.81 (Norm PR rank #9)  
Cathedral – In Reg 91.72 (Norm PR rank #4)  
Zionsville – In Reg 89.28 (Norm PR rank #3)  
Guerin Catholic – In Reg 88.23 (Norm PR rank #5)  
Culver Military – In Reg 86.60 (Norm PR rank #1)

Notice that Carmel jumps up to #1 from #9 on this list. Carmel has a tough out of state schedule but isn't punished for losing those games. Beating Zionsville handily carries a lot more weight and moves them, at this point, to #1.

## Strength of Schedule

Another interesting point about the power rankings is that it calculates Strength of Schedule. Having a stronger schedule, even if you lose some of those games is better in this system than playing a weak schedule and winning all of your games. But one thing to consider is that all of these calculations, including strength of schedule are constantly changing with every new entry, and not just the Indiana entries. Because Lax Power calculates all games across the country, even if your team does not play out-of-state games, a team you play may or someone they may play does. So the calculations are constantly in flux, because a game in Florida or Colorado may in some way trickle down to your Power Ranking. But each time the system gets more information, the more accurate it becomes.

And then of course, you play the game. It doesn't go how the computer predicts (or it does) and it recalculates it all again.