

Bubble Watch 2025: Men's NCAA tournament locks by conference

Clemson dominated North Carolina on Monday night to move the Tigers closer to a lock. AP Photo/Scott Kinser



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Feb 11, 2025, 09:46 AM ET

It has been less than a week since we launched Bubble Watch for the [2024-25 men's college basketball season](#), and we've already seen plenty of movement in the NCAA tournament odds. The latest gainer is Clemson, with the Tigers increasing their chances with Monday night's win over North Carolina.

There's still plenty of time for teams to add to (or subtract from) their odds, though we're looking at roughly a month until the power conference tournaments tip off -- even sooner for the mid-majors -- and just a little longer than that before Selection Sunday on March 16.

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As usual for Bubble Watch, we'll break teams down by conference into categories based on their projected NCAA tournament status. This year, however, we'll be largely basing the categories on [ESPN Analytics' BPI forecast](#), which gives each team a probability to make the tourney after simulating the remainder of the season 10,000 times.

Teams with **Lock** status have at least a 95% chance to make the tournament, according to the BPI forecast. (Yes, this means that 5% of the time, a team marked as a lock will miss the tourney. We set the threshold there as a nod to the traditional standard for significance testing.)

A team marked **Should Be In** has a BPI probability from 70% to 94%. These are teams that, most likely, will get into the field of 68, though their fates are not completely assured yet.

And a team with the **Work To Do** tag has either 25% to 69% tourney odds per BPI or is featured in ESPN's most recent [Bracketology column by Joe Lunardi](#) -- who, let's be honest, probably knows better than the algorithm. We'll mark these Bracketology teams with an asterisk. (This is our fail-safe for catching teams that BPI might be too low on.) The percentages will be more accurate the closer we get to Selection Sunday, as teams' bodies of work become more solidified.

Bubble Watch will be updated continuously from now until March 16. Here is our current projection of the bubble:

Locks: 22 teams

The Bubble: 38 total teams

Should be in: 14 teams

Work to do: 24 teams