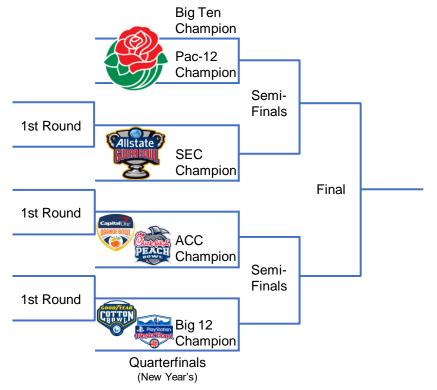
# Expanding the Playoffs—While Saving the Rose Bowl Proposed Adjustments to the New Playoff Proposal

- Traditional bowl affiliations would be preserved (unlike under new proposal)
- Top 6 seeds would be conference champions\* (vs. top 4 under new plan)
- Top 5 seeds would be champions of Power-5 conferences and would receive quarterfinals bids to traditional bowls (except in one scenario\*)
- The #6 seed would be the top-ranked champion from the Group-of-5\*
- The #6-8 seeds would host 1st-round games, playing #9-11
- The playoff would feature 11 teams (vs. 12 under new proposal)



<sup>\*</sup> If an independent or Group-of-5 champion is in the top-4, that team would be seeded #1, #2, #3, or #4 (as ranked by the committee) and take the #5 seed's spot in the quarterfinals, with the #5 seed becoming #6 (& hosting in round-1) and other seeds moving one spot as needed (#4 becomes #5, etc.).

#### **Key strengths:**

These proposed adjustments would retain the basic format of the new playoff proposal but would also...

- Save the Rose Bowl Game:
  - Preserve the Rose Bowl's place as a destination game with historic bowl tie-ins
  - Allow teams to strive all season to make the game and ultimately become Rose Bowl champions
  - Avoid making the Rose merely a playoff site, stripped of its traditional place in the sport
- Preserve other beloved and tradition-rich New Year's bowl games and affiliations
- Reward conference champions and thereby help preserve the best regular season in sports
- Guarantee playoff bids for Power-5 champions
- Guarantee that the top-ranked Group-of-5 champion would host a home playoff game
- Guarantee that an independent (or Group-of-5 champ) with a top-4 ranking would get a quarterfinal bid
- Prevent the scenario (under the new proposal) whereby up to 7 teams from the same conference could make the field, while leaving out a Power-5 champion (if ranked below #12 by the committee)

Note: If the Rose Bowl teams are seeded #1 & #2, the #2 seed would move to the other half of the bracket and play the #5 seed in the #5 seed's bowl, and #1 would play the #8-#9 winner in the Rose Bowl.

Note 2: Either the Orange or Peach Bowl would host the ACC champ, or they could alternate, and either the Cotton or Fiesta would host the Big 12 champ. These bowls could also potentially serve as semifinal sites.

