

# How Brackets Are Formed (8A, 7A, 6A,... A)

## After Pool play (after completing 3 games) see page 13

1. Each team accumulates team points based on its won-loss record.  
A team receives 3 pts for a win
2. Team points and tie-breakers will determine how teams are seeded and grouped into brackets.
3. A series of tie-breakers (see below) is used in cases where teams are tied in total team points at the completion of pool play

**Tie-Breaker rules** – when teams have the same Total Team Points (see # 1 above).

1. **Head-to-head - during tournament** (how did the 2 teams do against each other if they previously played at the tournament). **This is rarely applied** since teams from other pools haven't played each other but it is used sometimes for teams within the same pool end up with the same record (i.e. 2-1 or 1-2).

Possible Scenario:

- TEAM A finishes round robin at 2-1 from Pool 4
- TEAM B also finishes round robin at 2-1 also from Pool 4

During pool play TEAM B beat TEAM A and so therefore will be always be seeded higher than TEAM A regardless of any tie-breaker rules applied to either team.

## 2. Cumulative Point Differential

Points Scored MINUS Points Allowed during pool play Capped at maximum 21 points per occurrence. DEFENSE MATTERS!!!!

For example, any game that results in a final score where the winning team wins by 21 points or more, the point differential will be recorded as +21 ( even if you won by 30).

**If you are in one of those lopsided games (when you are ahead by 21 or more) we suggest that you use your bench and rest your better players. You'll know how to control the outcome with the capped 21 pts. There is no benefit for running up the score – use your bench players.**

TYPICAL SCENARIO:

- Team A from Pool 1 is 3-0 (+100 point differential)
- Team Q from Pool 4 is 3-0 (+100 point differential)
- Team W from Pool 2 is 3-0 (+99 point differential)
- Team F from Pool 3 is 3-0 (+91 point differential)
- Team Z from Pool 6 is 3-0 (+91 point differential)

More tie-breaking rules are needed to figure which 4 move on the top bracket and how will they be seeded. What we know:

Team A - qualifies for top bracket, seeding will be #1 or #2  
Team Q - qualifies for top bracket, seeding will be #1 or #2  
Team W - qualifies for top bracket, as Seed #3

And **Team F or Team Z?** - only one of these teams will qualify for the top bracket. The other will be top seed in the next lowest bracket.

**3. new! “Strength of Pool”** – for teams that are still tied for the same bracket seed, we will analyze the strength of each team’s pool to see if it can be determined which team had a pool of tougher competition over the other one. **This is most critical when there are several 3-0 teams after pool play all vying for the highest bracket.**

#### 4. Coin toss

### **BRACKETS FORMED...**

After the 3 pool-play games have been completed AND tie-breaker rules are applied (see above), teams are seeded from top to bottom. For example, in the girls division of 16 teams, teams are seeded #1 through #16.

It is very important that coaches report the final scores AS SOON AS THE GAME IS OVER. Our computerized system must be able to produce the correct seeding in a very short time frame. Please help by reporting your score to HSPN STAFF during the tournament.

Top 4 Seeds -> “4A” Bracket (each team in this bracket is then seeded #1 through #4)  
Next 4 Seeds -> “3A” Bracket (each team in this bracket is then seeded #1 through #4)  
Next 4 Seeds -> “2A” Bracket (each team in this bracket is then seeded #1 through #4)  
Last 4 Seeds -> “A” Bracket (each team in this bracket is then seeded #1 through #4)  
Larger divisions, like the Boys Varsity, will also include 5A, 6A and 7A brackets  
Smaller divisions, like the JV Boys, will only go up to 3A

#### **Advancing to Semi-finals in each bracket**

Seed #1 plays Seed #4 followed by Seed #2 playing Seed #3 in the semi-finals round.

#### **Advancing to Championship**

1. Winners of both semi-final games, advance to the Championship round.

Consolation Games

1. Losers of semi-final games will face off in the 3rd place Consolation game.

2. Winner of the Consolation Game takes home the 3rd place trophy.

#### **Overtime Games**

1. Any game will use overtime(s) to determine a winner if regulation ends in a tie.

2. Overtime games are governed by Virginia High School rules and officiated by the Colonial Basketball Association