

TOURNAMENT RULES AND FORMAT

Tournament Divisions (as planned, may expand)

Boys Varsity Division: Pool1 ... Pool 8
Girls Varsity Division : Pool1 ... Pool 5
Boys JV Division : Pool1... Pool3
Girls JV Division : Pool1
Boys MS Division : Pool1, Pool 2
Girls MS Division : Pool1

Also read "How We Create Pools" on page 13

Also read "How Brackets Are Formed" on page 14

Each team is to supply a scorer that will sit at the scorer's table for each game.

ALL GAMES ARE ENFORCED BY THE VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AND SANCTIONED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS.

Boys Varsity

Each team will compete in three Pool Play games. Then the brackets (A through 8A) with 4 teams in each bracket will be created and then semi-finals for each bracket will be played Friday night where Seed #1 plays Seed #4 and #2 plays #3 in each bracket. **Championship and Consolation game will be played on Saturday.**

Girls Varsity

Each team will compete in three Pool Play games. Then the brackets (A through 4A) with 4 teams in each bracket will be created and then semi-finals for each bracket will be played Thursday night where Seed #1 plays Seed #4 and #2 plays #3 in each bracket. **Championship and Consolation game will be played on Friday.**

Girls JV

Each team will compete in three Pool Play games. Then the semi-finals for each bracket will be played Thursday night where Seed #1 plays Seed #4 and #2 plays #3. **Championship and Consolation game will be played on Friday.**

Boys JV *new schedule this year*

Each team will compete in three Pool Play games. Then the brackets (A through 3A) with 4 teams in each bracket will be created and then semi-finals for each bracket will be played **Thursday** night where Seed #1 plays Seed #4 and #2 plays #3 in each bracket. **Championship and Consolation game will be played on Friday.**

Boys Middle School

Each team will compete in three Pool Play games. Then the brackets (A through 2A) with 4 teams in each bracket will be created and then semi-finals for each bracket will be played Wednesday night where Seed #1 plays Seed #4 and #2 plays #3 in each bracket. **Championship and Consolation game will be played on Thursday.**

Girls Middle School

Each team will compete in three Pool Play games. Then the brackets (A through 2A) with 4 teams in each bracket will be created and then semi-finals for each bracket will be played Wednesday night where Seed #1 plays Seed #4 and #2 plays #3 in each bracket. **Championship and Consolation game will be played on Thursday.**

How we create "pools" - teams of 4 - for Pool Play

When grouping teams for pool play, for example, Varsity Boys teams, we use the following priorities:

The first consideration is geography so that the likelihood of teams ever playing each other during the regular season is very small. For example we've had groupings in the past having teams from New York, Georgia, Texas, and Florida. This would almost ensure that these teams probably never played each other before. If there are more teams from one state than there are pools, then obviously there will be teams in the same pool that may have played each other during the season.

The second consideration is team won-loss records vs Homeschool teams to balance out the 4-team pool so that it contains a fair and balanced mix of strong, medium and weak teams.

Be sure to keep your records up to date on the National Homeschool Scoreboard:

<http://www.hspn.net/include/AddYourTeamStandings.asp>

note: a pool of all strong teams is a disadvantage - causing the better teams to play tougher competition and having their records blemished before the brackets are created.

note: a pool of all weaker teams is also unfair because the pool play competition is weaker and gives a deceptive won-loss record as the brackets are created

So with the balance of geography and balanced team records, we will try our best to establish random pools that are given a number only for purposes of organization. In other words, Pool #1, is not a ranking, just an identifier for the 4 teams that will be in it.

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