

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.