

# Ask the “Tournament Brain”



## The “TOURNAMENT BRAIN”

[www.ecbuzz.net](http://www.ecbuzz.net)

**== There are new changes, please read thoroughly, especially the ELIGIBILITY RULES ==**

**Warmups:** Arrive at your court before the posted game time and note the “run down” time on the game clock, that will be the length of warmups. No games are to start BEFORE the posted time. A minimum of 10 minutes will be always be allocated for warmups.

**ALL TEAMS PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WARMUP BALLS**

### Team Pools

Each division is subdivided into 4-team pools using geography and balanced team strength for each pool. Pool numbers are arbitrary and mean nothing as to best pool or worst pool. The goal is to have 4 teams in each pool that hopefully had not play each other during the season, however border battle teams are making it more and more difficult and there is no guarantee of your pool makeup.

- Boys Varsity Division
- Girls Varsity Division
- Boys JV Division
- Girls JV Division (maybe)
- Boys true 14-U Division
- Girls true 14-U Division

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.
  
- 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

**Pool play is “round robin” meaning that each team will play the other 3 teams in their pool for a total of 3 pool play games.**

## HOME TEAM:

- a) Listed first on the schedule
- b) Supplies game ball
- c) Supplies a game book scorer at the scorer's table and is the official book.

## VISITING TEAM:

- a) Must supply a scorer at the scorers' table

**ECScores.com** – is the official online scoring system. ANYONE and EVERYONE can post your final score! Thank you for your help.

## HOW BRACKETS ARE FORMED

After pool play has completed, ALL teams in their respective divisions (Varsity, JV, 14-U) are re-seeded after the tie-breaker system is applied.

**Points Capped CHANGE: With the use of the 35-point mercy rule in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, it seemed appropriated to raise the cap to 35 points (JV/Varsity) or 25 points (14-U)...**

**NOTE: Point spreads after a pool play game are CAPPED at 35/25 points and is applied during Tie Breakers, see below. This means there is no advantage to run up the score after you preserve your 35/25 points, so let your bench players enjoy some playing time.**

### After Pool play (after completing 3 games)

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** – applied 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 each other in pool play). **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).

### 2. **Cumulative Point Differential**

Points Scored MINUS Points Allowed during pool play. **Capped at maximum 35/25 points per occurrence.**

For example, any game that results in a final score where the winning team wins by 35 points or more, the point differential will be recorded as +35 (even if you won by 38). Likewise if you have lost by 38, for tie-breaking purposes that is recorded as -35 (JV and Varsity example)

### 3. **Least Average Points Allowed Per Game in Pool Play**

4. **“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.**

5. Coin toss - If the tie can't be resolved, then a "best of 3" coin toss will take place.

## **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 boys' varsity division of 32 teams, teams are seeded #1 through #32.

Top 8 Seeds -- **TOP Bracket** (each team in this bracket is then seeded 1 through 8) is for Varsity Boys and Girls Divisions only

Next 4 Seeds -> "6A" Bracket (each team in this bracket is then seeded 1 through 4)

Next 4 Seeds -> "5A" Bracket (each team in this bracket is then seeded 1 through 4)

Next 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)

Other divisions:

Varsity Girls: Top Bracket, down to A

JV Boys, 5A down to A

JV Girls, 2A and A (if available)

14-U Boys 2A and A

14-U Girls 2A and A.

**TOP BRACKET CHANGE: We were disheartened to learn that some teams in mockery were not taking the "loser bracket" side of the TOP BRACKET very seriously, even though we included a 6<sup>th</sup> game at no cost. So.... New for 2023...**

**Still, the top 8 varsity teams advance to the top bracket. Losers of the Quarterfinals will now be re-seeded and compete in the next level down (i.e. 7A) Bracket semis with championship banner, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards on the line. Winners of the Top Bracket Quarterfinals continue on to the Grand Champions semis as always.**

### **Quarter-finals only for the Top Bracket:**

#1 vs. #8; #2 vs. #7; #3 vs. #6; #4 vs. #5

### **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. All games will use overtime(s) to determine a winner if regulation ends in a tie.

2. Overtime games are governed **TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TSSAA**

## **AWARDS and TROPHIES**

Immediately at the conclusion of Championship matches:

Champions for each Division Bracket

2<sup>nd</sup> place team for each Division Bracket

### **MVP Awards**

Varsity Girls MVP award to a member of the Top Bracket Varsity Championship team. (Coach to decide)

Varsity Boys MVP award to a member of the Top Bracket Varsity Championship team. (Coach to decide)

JV Girls\* MVP award to a member of the highest bracket JV Girls Championship team. (Coach to decide) \* if there is a JV Girls division

JV Boys MVP award to a member of the highest bracket JV Boys Championship team. (Coach to decide)

14-U Girls MVP award to a member of the highest bracket 14-U Girls Championship team. (Coach to decide)

14-U Boys MVP award to a member of the highest bracket 14-U Boys Championship team. (Coach to decide)

# ELIGIBILITY RULES

## There are changes!

### **Basketball Teams that HSPN tournaments will permit:**

1. A basketball team that is directed by homeschool parents and/or homeschool organization with the intent of serving homeschool students.  
AND
2. A basketball TEAM roster that was put together in October/November and will be confirmed by the posting of an online roster completely by Dec 31, 2022 and can be supported by an official game in your scorebook.  
AND
3. Student-athletes have not achieved high school graduation prior to August 1, 2022  
AND
4. Student-athletes have not turned 19 before August 1, 2022. (We use August 1<sup>st</sup> because just about every school team starts their Fall sports schedule in August nowadays, so it just makes sense)  
AND
5. Student-athletes meets the age/grade requirements (see below).

### **These limited exemptions may be requested:**

1. **If this is you, YOU MUST CONTACT HSPN BY WITH COMPLETE ROSTER and a copy of your game book of a completed game by December 1st.**
2. With a small roster, you might be able to add student(s) from another Christian school (not Public) that must be on your roster by Dec 1<sup>st</sup> as reflected in your scorebook and **approved by HSPN (ask first!).**
  - a. The added students did not play basketball for any school on any day during the 2022-23 school year. HSPN will search the internet for verification.  
  
AND
  - b. The composition of your team **must still be a wide majority of homeschool students.**
3. **We may consider other hardship cases, send e-mail to [coach4life@yahoo.com](mailto:coach4life@yahoo.com)**

### **AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART CHANGES!!!**

<b><u>TEAM</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>
<b>"true" 14-U</b>	<b>14-under as of <u>3/18/23</u> (guarantees no 15 yos)</b>
<b>JV</b>	<b>16-under as of 8/1/22 (will change in 2024)</b>
<b>VARSITY</b>	<b>18-under as of 8/1/22</b>

# TEAM ROSTERS

Your ONLINE ROSTER will be your official tournament roster **and must be fully completed by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** It will be LOCKED on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and no more players can be added to your roster. In this way, each coach is accountable for his/her roster and can be questioned at the tournament. Your official roster will be published as a PDF and available online for all to see. There ARE exceptions for adding players to a roster, please read below.

**WHEN IS IT OK TO ADD PLAYERS TO MY ROSTER?** If you are registering a Varsity or JV team but leaving the younger teams at home, you may add those younger players to your Varsity or JV team during the tournament. The coach must be able to present the appropriate scorebook for the younger team(s) as a means of accountability showing the player(s) on that active roster from a game in December should anyone ask.

**UPDATE: IS MY PLAYER ALLOWED TO PLAY ON MULTIPLE TEAMS?** Only **ONE** player per gender from your ENTIRE organization may play up on one other team, provided he/she is not a major contributor on both.

Example: 14-U player (starter) is minimally used for JV - ALLOWED

Example: JV player (starter) is minimally used for Varsity - ALLOWED

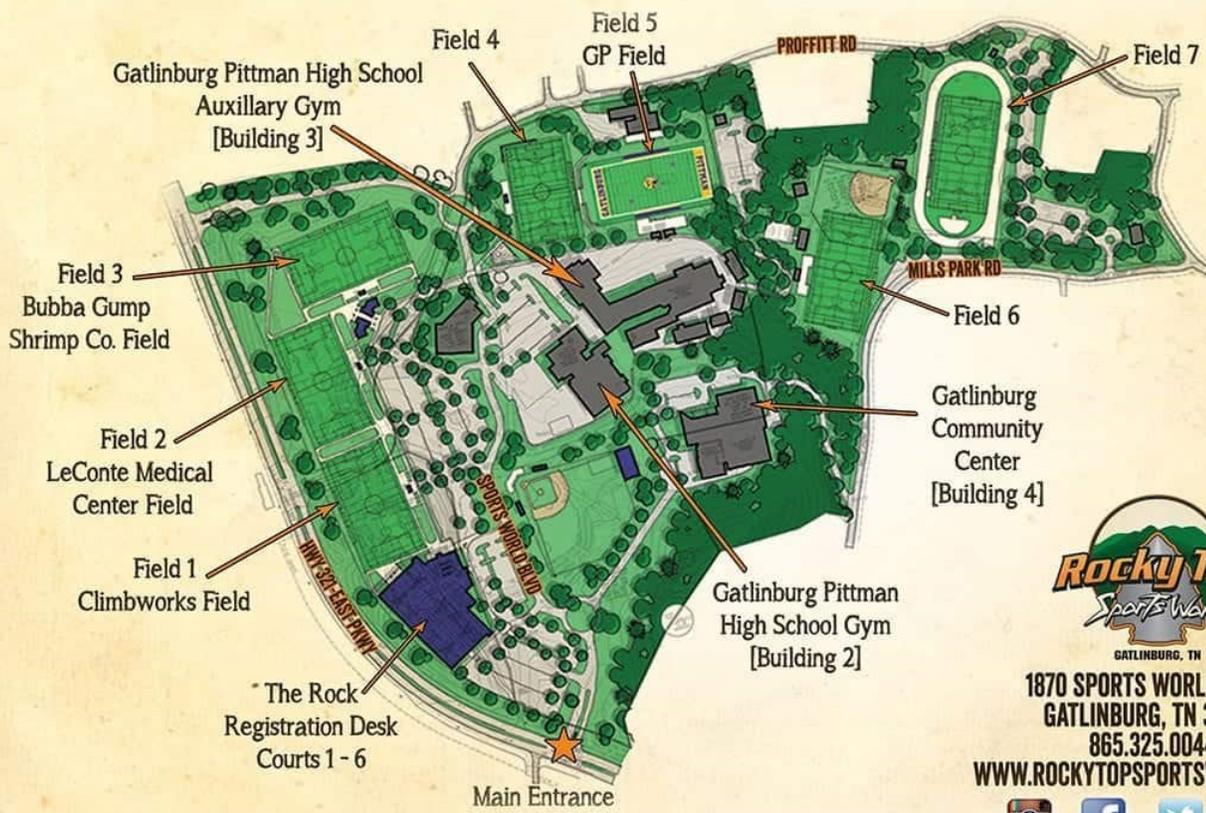
JV player (starter) is a starter for Varsity - NO!

JV player (starter or heavy contributor) plays significant minutes for Varsity - NO

14-U player (starter) is a starter for JV - NO!

14-U player (starter or heavy contributor) plays significant minutes for JV - NO

**AS ALWAYS THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND EXCEPTIONS, so please contact Chris at [coach4life@yahoo.com](mailto:coach4life@yahoo.com).**



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