

# Tie Breakers

Tie breaker rules will not apply for all team positions that do not qualify to advance in official competition at Leagues, Districts, Regionals, or Nationals. Some larger districts may require additional elimination competitions, such as semi-finals, which are also considered official competition. Tie breakers may also be used to determine placement for trophies, awards, etc. For an unofficial competition, the coordinator will determine and announce what tie breakers will be used for that quizzing event.

For ties in official competition the following tie breakers should be used, and all the teams involved in the tie will be ranked by points scored (if identical, then the head to head results between just the teams with identical points scored will determine the higher rank). For ties at National Finals in the Preliminary Brackets, the following tie breakers must be used.

To determine what tie breaker to use, first determine how many positions are open for advancement from the place (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc.) in which the teams are tied for. Then follow the tie breaker rules for the number of teams involved in the tie.

## One Position Open

\*\*\* If one team is undefeated against all the other teams involved in the tie scenario, then they automatically advance to the next level of competition. \*\*\*

1. If two teams are tied:
  - a. One game will be played, and the winner will advance.
2. If three teams are tied:
  - a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team. The winner of that round will move on to another round, and the loser eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup> match, and the winner will advance.
3. If four teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team. The winners will move on to another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The winners from round one will play each other, and the winner will advance.
4. If five teams are tied:
  - a. The 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winner moving on to another round, and the loser eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> vs 5<sup>th</sup> match, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team. The winners will move on to another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - c. The winners from round two will play each other, and the winner will advance.
5. If six teams are tied:
  - a. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team. The winners of this round will move on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the lowest remaining ranked team from round one, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the other remaining team, with the winners moving on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - c. The winners from round two will play each other, and the winner will advance.
6. If seven teams are tied:
  - a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team. The winners will move on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the lowest remaining ranked team from round one, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest remaining ranked team will play the other team, with the winners moving on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - c. The winners from round two will play each other, and the winner will advance.
7. If eight teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners moving on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest remaining ranked team will play the lowest remaining ranked team, and the second highest remaining team will play the other remaining team, with the winners moving on to another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - c. The winners from round two will play each other, and the winner will advance.

## **Multiple Positions Open**

\*\*\* If one team is undefeated against all the other teams involved in the tie scenario, then they automatically advance to the next level of competition. \*\*\*

## **Two Positions Open**

1. If three teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team, with the winner advancing, and the loser moving on to another round.
  - b. The loser will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team, with the winner advancing, and the loser eliminated.
2. If four teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
3. If five teams are tied:
  - a. The 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winner moving on to another round, and the loser eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> vs 5<sup>th</sup> match, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
4. If six teams are tied:
  - a. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, while the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winning teams moving on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the lowest remaining ranked team, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the other team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
5. If seven teams are tied:
  - a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team. The winners will move on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest ranked team will play the lowest remaining ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest remaining ranked team will play the other team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
6. If eight teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners moving on to play another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest remaining ranked team will play the lowest remaining ranked team, and the second highest remaining team will play the other remaining team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.

## **Three Positions Open**

1. If four teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the lowest ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing.
  - b. The losers of that round will then play each other, with the winner advancing, and the loser eliminated.
2. If five teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team, with the winner advancing, and the loser moving on to another round.
  - b. The loser of round one will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
3. If six teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
4. If seven teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team, with the winner advancing, and the loser moving on to another round.
  - b. The losing team from round one will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.

5. If eight teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners moving on to another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - b. The highest remaining team from round one will play the lowest remaining team, and the second highest remaining team will play the other remaining team, with the winners advancing, and the losers moving on to another round.
  - c. The losing teams from round two will play each other, with the winner advancing, and the loser eliminated.

### **Four Positions Open**

1. If five teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers moving on to another round.
  - b. The losing teams from round one will play each other, with the winner advancing, and the loser moving on to another round.
  - c. The loser of round two will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winner advancing, and the loser eliminated.
2. If six teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers moving on to another round.
  - b. The highest remaining ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the second highest remaining ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
3. If seven teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team. The winners will advance, and the losers will move on to another round. Simultaneously, the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team with the winner moving on to another round and the loser eliminated. The 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team will have a bye.
  - b. The highest remaining ranked team from round one will play the winner of the 6<sup>th</sup> vs 7<sup>th</sup> match, and the second highest remaining ranked team from round one will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
4. If eight teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.

### **Five Positions Open**

1. If six teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers moving on to another round.
  - b. The two highest remaining ranked teams will play each other, with the winner advancing, and the loser moving on to another round.
  - c. The loser of round two will play the lowest remaining ranked team from round one, with the winner advancing, and the loser eliminated.
2. If seven teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team will have a bye. The winners will advance, and the losers will move on to another round.
  - b. The highest remaining ranked team from round one will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the second highest remaining ranked team from round one will play the third highest remaining ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers eliminated.
3. If eight teams are tied:
  - a. The highest ranked team will play the 8<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team will play the 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team will play the 6<sup>th</sup> ranked team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked team, with the winners advancing, and the losers moving on to play another round.
  - b. The highest remaining team from round one will play the lowest remaining team, and the second highest remaining team will play the other remaining team, with the winners moving on to another round, and the losers eliminated.
  - c. The winners from round two will play each other, with the winner advancing, and the loser eliminated.

# **Special National Finals Rules**

## **Final Four**

1. Ties will be broken for 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> place by head-to-head standings first.
2. If ties still exist, then by head-to-head total points scored against the teams who are tied.
3. If a tie still exists among teams to determine the 4<sup>th</sup> team, then it will be broken with the head-to-head record of the tied teams against the top three teams that have been confirmed to be in the Final Four.

## **Challenger Bracket**

1. Ties will be broken for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places by head-to-head standings first, and then if necessary, by total points scored during the 19 rounds.
2. Ties for all other places will be based solely on head-to-head competition.