



Frequently Asked Questions – Tournaments/Formats

➤ **How many teams advance out of pool play to the playoffs?**

Answer: Two teams advance out of FOUR- and FIVE-team pools. If there are Six teams in the tournament (two three-team pools), then all six will advance to the playoffs after pool play.

➤ **How are the top two teams identified to advance to playoffs?**

Answer: The MATCH win percentage is the only determining factor for advancement to playoffs (exception 5-team pools). MATCH win percentage is calculated by dividing the number of Match wins by the total matches played and multiplying by 100. A team with a 2-1 match record has a 66.6 match win percentage. For 5-team pools, the Set Win Percentage will determine the playoff teams. If two teams (only) tie by set win percentage, the first tie breaker will be the result of the two sets between the two teams (if one team won both sets, they advance).

➤ **What happens if there are TIES (match win percentage ONLY to advance to playoffs)?**

Answer: There are several scenarios that could occur at tournaments (these are most common – more are available in Tournament Director's Handbook):

- TWO teams tie for First place in pool (ALL pool formats) – no playoff game needed since both teams will advance to playoffs regardless. For seeding purposes, teams will be compared based on (in order): head to head in pool, set (game) win percentage, and then point differential (total points won minus total points lost) of all sets played during pool play. If still tied after all three comparisons, the flip of a coin will decide seeding.
- TWO teams tied for Second place in pool –the results of the match during pool play is the tie-breaker. For 5-team pools, if no team won both sets then they must play one set to 15 (switch at 8) to break the tie. The first place team is the officiating team.
- THREE teams tie (match record) for second place in pool – superior team as judged by set win percentage or point differential will officiate a one set to 15 play off between the other two teams and then play the winner to break the tie.
- FOUR teams tie (match record) for second place in a pool – rank all teams by set win percentage and then point differential. Team 1 plays Team 4 one set to 15. Team 2 plays Team 3 one set to 15. The winners play each other one set to 15 to break the tie.
- THREE teams tie for TWO playoff spots – the team with the superior record (in order) by Head to Head (happened to beat the other two teams in pool play), set win percentage, or point differential will be awarded first place and will officiate one set to 15 play off between the other two teams for second place.

➤ **How are teams SEEDED into the playoff brackets (6-team playoff brackets)?**

Answer: All first place teams in pools are seeded FIRST (Regardless of the second place teams' records). If there are two or more undefeated teams, they will be seeded based on what pool they come out of (Pool 1 team higher than Pool 2 and Pool 2 team higher than Pool 3). If first place teams have a loss, the teams are seeded based on the following (in order): (a) Match win percentage, (b) set win percentage, and (c) total pool play point differential. The second place teams are then seeded into the playoffs based on the criteria above. HOWEVER, the lower seeds (seeds 4, 5, and 6) can and should be adjusted so that teams from the SAME pool would not meet each other (if they both won out) until at least the semi-finals (finals if it can be worked but not mandatory).

➤ **Who officiates the playoffs?**

Answer: If enough adult paid officials are present, then they will work as R1 for all playoff matches (including one set playoffs to break ties). For one- and two-pool tournaments, the LAST place teams in each pool will stay to officiate the first round of playoffs (in ONE specific tie-breaker situation, TD may allow last place team from other pool to leave). For three-pool tournaments, the top two teams will receive a bye and officiate the first round of playoffs. Thereafter, the losing team will officiate the next round of playoffs. For the finals, the TD will designate either the team closest to the tournament site or the last-finishing team (i.e. one semi goes two sets and the other three) from the two losing semi-finalist teams to work the finals. **No team should leave the facility until released by the TD.** The TD will discuss the officiating requirements at the coaches meeting.

➤ **What is the match format for playoffs?**

Answer: Where time permits, all matches should be best two of three starting at zero (deciding set to 15, switch at 8). If time is a factor in the facility, the Tournament Director will discuss the formats during the coaches meeting. Finals should always be two of three (but may be reduced if both coaches agree).

➤ **Who makes the FINAL decisions on Seeding issues, playoff formats, and all things to do with the tournament?**

Answer: The Tournament Director (TD) has final authority on all issues concerning the tournament. The TD will use the Carolina Region Tournament Director Handbook to administer the tournament. Carolina Region staff can be reached by cell phone at any time during the day to clarify situations and give FINAL rulings that must be followed.