

FPUSA Tournament Regulations

Regulations, Formats and Prizes for FPUSA Tournaments

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1. Eligibility

Players - All players must meet the eligibility requirements for the specific competition.

Regional tournaments:

- Eligible players include FPUSA members and players licensed with a federation affiliated with the FIPJP, provided the latter are Associate Members of an FPUSA club. There is a limit of one foreign license-holder per team.
- All players must have a valid membership with the FPUSA by the tournament registration deadline.
- Tournament Directors should submit a list of registered teams to the National Sports director (NSD) after the registration deadline for membership verification.
- In some cases, foreign license holders may not be allowed to play in Regional Singles. Any such restriction must be clearly stated on the tournament registration form.

National and Qualifier tournaments:

- Open to only FPUSA license holders.
- All players must have a valid membership with the FPUSA by the tournament registration deadline.
- Participants in Qualifiers are required to be US citizens or must hold a Permanent Resident card (Form I-551/Green card) at the time of registration. Only 1 member of a team can be a Permanent Resident. Eligibility requirements will be reviewed by NSD for all players.
- FPUSA members who have competed in an International Competition such as the World Championship, Confederations World Cup, Continental championships, World Games, or multisport games for another Federation must wait 5 years prior to being eligible to participate in a Qualifier.
- Junior players must be 17 years of age or younger in the year the World Championship is held.
- Players must comply with FPUSA and FIPJP Anti-Doping Policy

Host Clubs – Host clubs must meet the following requirements:

- 8 - regulation size courts for regional tournaments (3 x 12 meters).
- 16 - regulation size courts for national and qualifier tournaments (4 x 15 meters).
- At least 4 lighted courts (permanent or temporary) for Qualifier tournaments.
- One approved rigid circle per court.
- String lines for each court - refer to Section 20 for proper dimensions.
- Restroom facilities (permanent or portable) located within reasonable proximity to the playing area.

Clubs can submit a proposal to host a tournament if they do not meet the above requirements. The Selection Committee will consider the request for exception, but that does not guarantee that the club will be awarded the event.

[FPUSA Safety Regulations](#) must be followed for all events.

2. Registration

Pre-registration is required for FPUSA tournaments. Entry forms and payment must be received by the deadline printed on the registration form. The registration deadline should be no less than 1 week prior to the tournament. Late registration may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director, but is not allowed on the day of the tournament unless replacing a team that has cancelled on the morning of the tournament.

3. Jury

A Jury consisting of 3 – 5 members shall be selected by the Tournament Director 2 weeks prior to the Tournament. The members of the Jury should consist of players from various clubs and may also include non-playing members of the host club. All members of the Jury must be present during the entire tournament. These individuals should be knowledgeable of the Rules and Tournament Regulations and respected by their peers. They are volunteers and will serve to resolve any unforeseen circumstances that may come up during the tournament.

4. Check-in

Check-in and start times are as printed on the entry form. Check-in shall begin no less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Team Captains must check-in during the reporting period as stated on the Entry Form. If a team has one player missing due to injury or illness, they may replace that player prior to the start of the tournament.

5. Announcements

Tournament Directors should allow 20 - 30 minutes prior to the start time for Head Umpire and general tournament announcements. The following items must be covered:

- Tournaments are run in accordance with the FIPJP rules adopted by the FPUSA.
- Location of the first aid kit and address in case there is a need to call 911
- Head Umpire, assisting Umpires and members of the Jury
- Number of qualifying games and format, including if games are timed and the corresponding time limit of those games.
- Number of prizes in the Championship and Consolante.
- Bye conditions, if necessary (see Section 9 below)
- Lunch break or number of games to be completed before lunch
- Court assignments, if assignments will be made
- No drinking of alcohol during games on or off the courts
- No smoking, vaping or cell phone usage during games – a designated smoking area should be established by the Tournament Director
- Spectators may never stand on the courts during a game. Players or spectators videotaping or streaming games may never have a tripod or camera on the court of play. (See additional restrictions in Section 20)

6. Tournament Format

Tournaments are multi-staged events, starting with the Qualifying rounds and progressing to Championship and Consolation stages. The tournament system used depends on the number of teams participating. Tournaments with less than 12 teams should be one day unless designated as a Qualifier.

- **Round Robin** - (less than 8 teams) Each team will play all other teams once. Teams are ranked after all qualifying rounds according to number of wins. Ties are broken in the following order: head-to-head (when only 2 teams are involved), point difference, point quotient.
- **Rounds (aka Swiss Hotel)** – (8 to 11 teams) A pre-assigned random pairing system. Teams are ranked after all qualifying rounds according to wins and point differential. Ties are broken in the following order: head-to-head (when only 2 teams are involved), point difference, point quotient.
- **Swiss System** – (12 or more teams) Ranks teams according to strength of schedule and opponent (Bucholz 1, Bucholz 2 and point differential). Opponents are paired after each round based on similar ranking.
- **Pool Play** - Teams are seeded into a pool. In the 2nd round, winners play winners; losers play losers. In the 3rd round (barrage), the one-win-one-loss teams play each other. Teams with two losses are eliminated.
- **Single Elimination** - Teams must win to advance. Typically used in the Championship rounds. Seeded brackets required.

One system is chosen for the Qualifying stage and one system for the Championship stage. In 2-day tournaments, you can choose multiple systems for the Championship stage.

For instance:

- Day 1 - 5 games using Swiss System
- Day 2 - Pool Play, leading to Single Elimination

7. Tournament Management Systems

Tournaments are run using PetanqueApp tournament software. A User Guide and download link are available on the [FPUSA website](#). The tournament cannot be entered into the software until the registration is closed. Late registrations are not allowed to be entered into the event once PetanqueApp has been set up.

Tournament directors must create a user account and enable the FPUSA Player Database. Players who are new FPUSA members can be entered manually, as they will not appear in the drop-down list. The “shuffle” feature must be deployed immediately after entering the teams and prior to naming the event. There are modules for each of the approved formats listed above. You may need to use multiple modules if you are running a two day tournament.

After the tournament is finished, the data should be exported in .XML format and sent to the NSD for inclusion in the Player Rating System.

Tournaments with less than 8 teams may be run manually using the Round Robin or Swiss Hotel format. Player results from these tournaments will not be included in the Player Rating System.

Team captains should be present for the draw if a tournament is being run manually. It is acceptable for an umpire or designated official to draw in place of a captain.

8. Timing Games

Note: This section does not supersede Articles 36 and 37 of the rules.

Qualifying games should be timed. Playoff games may be timed if the Tournament Director determines that there is insufficient time to complete the tournament. When games are timed, all games must start simultaneously.

Regulation times are as follows:

- Singles – 45 minutes, plus one (1) end
- Doubles – 60 minutes, plus one (1) end
- Triples (Qualifying rounds 1-day tournament) - 60 minutes, plus one (1) end
- Triples (Championship and 2-day qualifying rounds) – 75 minutes, plus one(1) end

Per FIPJP rules, if a member of the team is not present at the start of a timed game, the team will forfeit 1 point for every 5 minutes of play time. A team may opt to continue without the missing player but will have to play with less than 6 boules. (Forfeit the missing players' boules). Refer to Articles 32 & 33 of the rules.

In timed games, if there is a tie score at the end of the regulation time outlined above, the teams will play one last end. During this tie-break end, the jack cannot become dead for any reason. If the jack goes dead, it is to be put back in its marked position, or else in the nearest valid place to where it went out of play. A jack can be moved to another valid position on the court during a tie-break end. At this point it must be re-marked.

When daylight is limited, and there are no illuminated courts, the Tournament Director has the discretion to reduce the regulation time, in order to complete all rounds of play in acceptable lighting conditions.

9. Scoring, Byes, Forfeits, & Disqualifications

- All games are played to a decisive winner. Ties are not permitted.
- Bye games shall be recorded as a “Win” with a score of 13-7.
- Teams that forfeit are disqualified from the tournament. If a team forfeits in the middle of a game their score stands at the time of forfeiture. The team remaining is awarded 13 points.
- Un-played games resulting from disqualifications are scored as a Bye.

Team Captains shall report their scores to the control table immediately after each game. At the conclusion of each round the Tournament Director shall post results so players may verify the accuracy of the recorded score.

10. Qualifying Stage

Number of Games

- One-day tournament – 3 qualifying games.
- Two-day tournament – 5 qualifying games.

Formats To Use (choose one)

- Round Robin
- Rounds (aka Swiss Hotel)
- Swiss System

Refer to Section 6 above

Court Assignments

Courts may be assigned at the discretion of the Tournament Director for qualifying games. A team should not play on the same court in two consecutive games.

11. Championship Stage

Top ranked teams go to the Championship Stage, the lower ranked teams to the Consolation Stage. See chart in **Appendix** for the breakdown of the teams moving into each bracket.

PetanqueApp calculates the ranking after each round based on the following methodology. If a tournament is being run manually the ranking calculation used is the Round Robin or Rounds method.

Seeding

- **Round Robin and Rounds (aka Swiss Hotel) systems**, teams are ranked by the number of wins. Ties are broken using the following methodology in this order: head-to-head (when only two teams are considered), point difference and then point quotient (ratio of points a team scored to points their opponents scored).
- **Swiss System**, team rankings are calculated after each round. Teams are ranked by the number of wins and strength of schedule. Use the following settings: Win, Buchholz (BHN 1), Minor Buchholz (fBHN2), Delta (point differential). (FIPJP's World Championship standard).
- The tiebreaker of last resort is a coin flip, if 2 teams, drawing straws, if more than 2 teams are involved.

Formats To Use

- One-day tournaments - Single Elimination.
- Two-day tournaments - Pool Play, Single Elimination

Normally a seeded pool of up to 4 teams (Pool Play) is used to determine the final teams for the Single Elimination. In situations with 12 teams advancing to the Championship stage, the Tournament Director can use either 3 Pools with 4 teams or 4 Pools with 3 teams. Refer to the FPUSA website for 3 team and 4 team Pool Play seeding and brackets.

Court Assignments

- Courts should be assigned by the Tournament Director for the Semi-Final and Final rounds.
- Teams should not play on the Finals court during the Semi-Final round unless there are extenuating circumstances related to weather conditions or daylight.
- Finals and semifinals may use one or two courts. When multiple courts are used, all exterior string lines are dead-boule lines and the jack must be set 50 cm from the end line in regards to the direction of play.

Time Limits and Ending Games in Progress

The Tournament Director may impose time limits on games, but only if it is necessary to complete the tournament on time. The goal is to have at least the semifinals and finals played untimed.

If the Head Umpire, in consultation with the Jury and the Tournament Director, judges the Final match and/or the 3rd/4th place match must be called due to darkness, weather, or other factors, the results of the match will be the score at the time that play is halted.

12. Consolation Stage

Teams who do not qualify for the Championship Stage are moved to the Consolation. Participation in a Consolation is not mandatory.

For two-day tournaments, if there are 8 or more teams in the Consolation, the Consolation format outlined in the One Day Tournament guidelines in the Appendix is followed. Teams are seeded according to how they finished in the Qualifying rounds on the first day of the tournament. If there are less than 8 teams in the Consolation of a two-day tournament, they will play Round Robin.

13. Qualifiers

All Qualifiers will be held as a two day tournament and will follow the regulations in Section 10 that apply to two-day tournaments for the Qualifying games. The Qualifier tournament table in the Appendix determines how many teams will advance to the Championship stage on the second day. If there are less than 12 teams registered for the Qualifier, 8 teams will advance to the Championship.

The Championship stage will follow the regulations that are outlined in Section 11 that apply to two-day tournaments. A 3rd place game is not played, both teams losing in the semi-finals are awarded bronze medals. As a matter of record, the finishing order for 3rd and 4th place is determined by a coin flip.

At the Tournament Directors discretion, timed games in both the Qualifying stage and the Championship stage may be played with +2 ends after the regulation time period expires if time permits. This should never be used during Pool Play or the Single elimination bracket if daylight is a concern for the Semi-Finals and Finals.

A Consolante tournament, held on day two, follows the one-day tournament guidelines in Section 10. At the option of the host club, FPUSA members who did not compete in day one of the Qualifier are eligible to join the tournament. A fee of up to \$35 can be charged for participation in the event and will be awarded to the winners as prize money in accordance with Section 17.

It is not mandatory for players eliminated in the Qualifier to participate in the Consolante tournament. The tournament does not need to be the same format as the Qualifier. It may be changed to Singles, Doubles or Triples as the discretion of the host club to maximize participation.

A Shooting competition in the same format as the World Championship should be held in the afternoon on the day prior to the event. Participation is not mandatory for participants in the

Qualifier, but encouraged.

Teams must wear identical Jerseys both days of the competition. This requirement must be included on the Registration form.

Teams are encouraged to bring a non-playing CIEP/FPUSA Certified Coach for the competition. The team captain shall notify the Tournament Director by the registration deadline if a Coach will be used. If that individual is not a member of the National Coaching Pool, they will not be eligible to be the coach for the World Championship.

Information related to participants in a World Qualifier can be found in Section 20, Other Regulations.

14. Results

A Tournament Directors Report should be completed and sent to the National Sport Director within five (5) days. All results shall be posted on the FPUSA website. See <http://www.usapetanque.org/tournament-directors> for additional information.

15. Inclement Weather

In the event weather conditions become hazardous to players, make the terrain unplayable, or create conditions making a timely tournament impossible; the Tournament Director, appointed Jury and Head Umpire together may decide to postpone, cancel or otherwise alter the tournament format as they deem necessary.

For a two-day tournament if the conditions stated above make completing the first day of play impossible, a minimum of 3 qualifying games shall be required to move forward to the Championship Stage.

16. Entry Fees

The host club may take \$10 per day from each player's entry fee to cover non-lunch hospitality costs. Entry fees are as follows

- Qualifiers: \$65 per player
- Nationals: \$50 per player
- Regionals: \$35 per player

17. Prize Structure & Medals

The prize structure outlined in the table below is to be used for all FPUSA tournaments. Monetary prizes are not awarded in Qualifiers.

For Regional and National tournaments, the total prize money to be awarded is equal to the amount of entry fees collected less any Club Holdback as allowed in Section 16. If a host club wishes to obtain sponsors to increase the prize and/or offset cost, it is encouraged.

Medals are awarded for First, Second and Third place in the Championship Stage of the

tournament and are supplied by the FPUSA at no cost to the host club.

Number of Prizes

A bracket is either a Championship or Consolante. Please see the breakdown below for the number of teams per bracket based on the total number of teams entered. A Prize calculator is located on the FPUSA website under Tournament Director “Useful Documents” for your convenience.

# of Teams	Number of prizes	Championship	Consolante
4-7	2 (Championship only)	1st 60% 2nd 40%	
8-11	2/1 (Championship/Consolante)	1st 45% 2nd 35%	1 st 20%
12-20	3/2 (Championship/Consolante)	1st 30% 2nd 25% 3rd 20%	1st 15% 2nd 10%
21-29	4/3 (Championship/Consolante)	1st 25% 2nd 20% 3rd 18% 4th 12%	1st 10% 2nd 9% 3rd 6%
30+	4/4 (Championship/Consolante)	1st 25% 2nd 20% 3rd 15% 4th 12%	1st 10% 2nd 8% 3rd 6% 4th 4%

18. Umpires

A Head Umpire presides over all FPUSA tournaments. In certain situations there should also be one or more additional Umpires to assist. Duties and court assignments are at the discretion of the Head Umpire. Refer to the Umpire Regulations for specific details. Use of non-playing umpires is advised whenever possible.

Credentialed Umpires, announced at the start of the tournament, act with full duties and responsibilities to enforce rules during the tournament.

19. Non-playing Tournament Directors

A non-playing Tournament Director should be used for all FPUSA National and Qualifier tournaments. If one is not available, then approval from the NSD is required. Regional tournaments with more than 16 teams should also have a non-playing Tournament Director if possible.

The Tournament Director may appoint an individual to assume their responsibilities on the day(s) of the tournament. At any point in time they may consult with the Head Umpire, Jury and Playing Tournament Director for unplanned changes during the event including but not limited to weather, time of play, assignment of courts, etc.

20. Other Regulations

- Appropriate attire on the courts, as determined by the tournament staff and in accordance with local ordinances, is required of all players. Matching Jerseys may be required, at the discretion of the host club and with the concurrence of the National Sport Director, for National tournaments. This requirement must be included on the registration form.
- The Tournament Director may, for any game in progress and if an umpire is available, request the Head Umpire to assign an umpire to a game to expedite play. An umpire must be present for all semifinal and final games.
- Article 5 of the rules states: When the terrains of play are enclosed by barriers, these must be a minimum distance of 1m from the exterior line of the playing area. Note: high barriers such as fences that enclose playing areas and low barriers such as boards that separate playing lanes are different barriers. If the playing area (terrains of play) is enclosed by a fence then there must be 1m between the fence and the terrain. If boards separate playing areas then a minimum of 50 cm must separate the dead boule line from the board.
- Any obstacle on a court that is enclosed by a string line shall not increase or decrease the size of the approved width or length of a court. All string lines shall be no less than 50 cm and no greater than 1m from the obstacle. All string lines shall be no greater than 1.54 mm (0.06 in) and may not impede a boule or jack from going out of bounds. If an obstacle is not enclosed by a string line it is considered live.
- Videotaping or Streaming of games by spectators and players should never interfere with the game in progress. Players cannot leave the court during an end to move camera or video equipment. Tripods or any other devices used for filming or streaming are prohibited from the courts during a game. Spectators and players are not allowed to stand in the line of play while filming a game. A tripod may be in the line of play, but without anyone behind it.
- Any player under the age of 18, (Junior) in an adult game must play with boules that are 70.5 mm to 80 mm in diameter and 650 to 800 g in weight in accordance with FIPJP regulations.
- The following information relates to participants in a Qualifier
 - Within two weeks after the Qualifier, the Championship team must select a 4th player. This individual must have competed in the Qualifier. The team will also select a Coach from the National Coaching Pool. The team Captain will notify the NSD of the 4th member and the Coach for recommendation and approval by the Sport Committee and the FPUSA Board.
 - All members of the World Championship delegation (4 players and coach) are responsible for ensuring that their passport is valid for at least 8 months after the date of travel out of the USA for the Pan-Am Qualifier and the World Championship. Every person is responsible for obtaining a visa for entry into any country to which they are traveling. Completeness of Travel Documents will be confirmed with each player 90 days prior to departure date for the Pan-Am Qualifier and the World Championships. Incomplete or missing documents required for travel will result in removal from the team/delegation.
 - The FPUSA provides a stipend to the players and coach to offset the financial obligations of travel, lodging and meals. The stipend will most likely not cover the full amount of cost that is incurred and the individuals are personally responsible for the additional cost.
 - At the Pan-Am Qualifier and World Championship, the Coach will determine the members of the team playing on the court at any given time during the World

Championship. The Coach will make the final determination of the player who will represent the FPUSA in the Shooting Competition at the World Championship.

All clubs awarded an FPUSA Tournament or hosting an Open Tournament are bound by these regulations unless given a written waiver by the NSD. The Head Umpire shall be notified by the NSD of all waivers and exemptions granted prior to the start of the tournament. Non-compliance is subject to review and penalties.

Appendix

Championship/Consolation Breakdown

During months with short days, Tournament Directors with prior approval from the National Sport Director may limit the Championship to 8 teams, regardless of the number of teams entered; thereby, limiting the Championship stage to three games.

1-Day Tournament					
# of Teams	Champ. Stage	Conso. Stage	Qualifiers	Day 1 Championship	Consolation
4	All	N/A	Round Robin		N/A
5	All	N/A	Round Robin		N/A
6	All	N/A	Round Robin		N/A
7	All	N/A	Round Robin		N/A
8	4	4	Rounds 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
9	5	4	Rounds 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
10	6	4	Rounds 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
11	7	4	Rounds 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
12	8	4	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
13	8	5	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
14	8	6	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
15	8	7	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
16	8	8	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
17	12	5	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
18	12	6	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
19	12	7	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
20	12	8	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
21	16	5	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
22	16	6	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
23	16	7	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
24	16	8	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
25	16	9	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
26	16	10	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
27	16	11	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
28	16	12	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
29	16	13	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
30	16	14	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
31	16	15	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination
32	16	16	Swiss - 3 games	Single Elimination	Single Elimination

2-day Tournament				
# of Teams	Championship Stage	Consolante Stage	Day 1 Qualifiers	Day 2 Championship
12	8	4	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
13	8	5	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
14	8	6	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
15	8	7	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
16	8	8	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
17	12	5	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
18	12	6	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
19	12	7	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
20	12	8	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
21	16	5	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
22	16	6	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
23	16	7	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
24	16	8	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
25	16	9	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
26	16	10	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
27	16	11	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
28	16	12	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
29	16	13	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
30	16	14	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
31	16	15	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
32	16	16	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination

*** All consolations in 2-day tournaments follow the 1-day format on the prior page.**

Qualifiers				
# of Teams	Championship Stage	Consolante Tournament	Day 1 Qualifiers	Day 2 Championship
12	8	4	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
13	8	5	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
14	8	6	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
15	8	7	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
16	8	8	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
17	12	5	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
18	12	6	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
19	12	7	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
20	16	4	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
21	16	5	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
22	16	6	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
23	16	7	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
24	16	8	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
25	16	9	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
26	16	10	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
27	16	11	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
28	16	12	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
29	16	13	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
30	16	14	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
31	16	15	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination
32	16	16	Swiss - 5 games	Pool Play + Single Elimination

Refer to the FPUSA Website for Pool Play and Single Elimination Brackets.