



New schedule option for VC National Championships

The purpose of this schedule is to allow for more meaningful competition and to allow all participating teams the opportunity to complete the Nationals tournament with a rank higher than their initial seed. This will be achieved by removing the divisions of teams (32, 40, 48, etc) and having teams compete in tiers of 16. Movement between the tiers will allow teams to play closer to their own caliber throughout the entire tournament and the opportunity for lower seeded teams to move up in the rankings.

For example, the 33rd seed can now finish as high as 17th compared to the current schedule where the 33rd seed could finish 33rd at best (top of Div 2).

General Notes:

- Teams will start the tournament in tiers of 16, day 2 and 3 will be played in tiers of 8
- More balanced competition on Day 1 for all teams
- The lowest seed the 1st ranked team plays would be the 16th seed
- Teams 33-48 have the opportunity to finish in 17th place
- Top 32 teams still have chance at National Championship title
- On day 3, tier 1 teams will compete for the National Championship title
- Teams will have the opportunity to move up or down in rankings following both Day 1 and Day 2
- Only Tier 1 teams will play in a bronze medal match
- Divisions will not be used in this schedule

This schedule will be piloted at the 14U and 16U age category at the 2022 Nationals. A survey will be distributed to all teams to collect feedback and VC will determine whether or not changes are needed or if the schedule will be expanded to all age categories for the 2023 Nationals.

The following provides a further breakdown of the schedule layout for each day of competition.

Day 1: Pools are snaked into groups of 16 (across 4 pools).

Day 2: PowerPools are decided based on Day 1 results. PowerPools are now made into groups of 8. Movement is decided by the following:

1. The top team in each pool moves into last 2 pools of the preceding group of 16
2. The 2nd place team in each pool remains in their group of 16 and is placed in first 2 pools.
3. The 3rd place team in each pool remains in their group of 16 and is placed in last 2 pools.
4. The 4th place team in each pool moves down to the next group of 16 and is placed in first 2 pools.
5. Exceptions:



- Top 8 teams in first group of 16 make up first 2 pools.
- Last 8 teams in last group of 16 make up last 2 pools.

Day 3: Playoffs are based on Day 2 results. Playoffs are named by Tiers and are an 8 team playoff bracket. Matches are scheduled by cross pool play, with 1st team playing 4th team.

Day 3 pools are determined as followed:

1. Top team in each pool moves up to the next group of 8 and are the last 2 teams of the group of 8.
2. 2nd place team in each pool remains in the same group of 8.
3. 3rd place team in each pool remains in the same group of 8.
4. 4th place team in each pool moves down to the next group of 8 and are placed as the first 2 teams in the group of 8.
5. Exceptions:
 - a. Top 6 teams in first group of 8 remain in the same group of 8.
 - b. Bottom 6 teams in last group of 8 remain in the same group of 8.

Playoff bracket with follow the structure of:

1. Quarter Finals
2. Semi Finals
3. Bronze Medal (Top 8 “Championship Tier” only)
4. Gold Medal (all tiers)