

ARTICLE VIII – PLAYOFF FORMATS & TIE BREAKERS

Iowa Region tournaments generally take 4 teams from each pool to playoffs. If you choose to take fewer teams, you must notify the Iowa Region when you apply for tournament sanction. This information must be given to team reps before the tournament, as it may affect their decisions in entering tournaments, as well as how they make their lineups.

Finals should be schedule to start no later than 8:00 pm.

A Championship and Consolation bracket may be used for playoffs; however, a consolation bracket is not required, depending on the number of teams participating in the tournament. Due to time constraints, **no more than 8 teams** should be in the Championship bracket.

When teams are tied to determine either 1) one team advances to playoffs and the other goes home after pool play, OR 2) one team advances to the Championship bracket, and the other goes to the consolation bracket, **further competition MUST take place** unless clearly stated in advance in the tournament regulations.

Tiebreaking Procedures to determine playoff positions. This is the method most often employed for determining tie breakers in the Iowa Region. Different variations for determining tie breakers can be found in the USAV Domestic Competition Regulations (rule book); if a tournament uses different criteria, it must be stated at the beginning of the event. Teams should NOT be eliminated from assignment to the Championship bracket by point differential or any other non-competitive system.

Tied Teams both qualify for playoffs (both qualify for Championship bracket or both qualify for Consolation bracket), **but are tied for position.** Teams tied for a position in the same bracket should not compete in a playoff set to determine position. Tie breaking criteria differs if you are using match play during pool play (win 2 out of 3) or simply playing 2 sets in pool play. Position assignment should be determined by:

- a) **If playing 2 sets only during pool play:**
 - (1) Results of the match(es) between the tied teams, first on the won-lost record, and second on the point spread of the match(es).
 - (2) If still tied, comparison of the point differential based on the total round robin competition. Point differential should be determined by subtracting the total points gained by opponents from the total points earned by the team. The highest remainder should be considered the superior team for tie-breaking purposes.
 - (3) If still tied, position shall be determined by coin toss.
- b) **If playing match play (2 out of 3) in pool play:**
 - (1) Head to head results.
 - (2) Set percentage (sets won by team divided by total sets played).
 - (3) Point percentage (total points earned by the team in pool play divided by total points earned by the team's opponents in pool play).

More teams tied for a playoff position than there are positions. The tied teams must compete for the position in further direct competition. Direct competition must take place to determine which tied team will go to the Championship bracket vs. the Consolation bracket, or to determine which tied team will advance to a playoff bracket vs. which team will be finished after pool play.

In direct competition to determine tie breakers for a playoff positions, at least one additional 25 point set should be played. Teams will change sides at 13 point. No cap shall be in effect. Where tournament guidelines stipulate, a 15 point set may be used.

Examples of tie-breaking procedures:

- a) Two teams tie for last position: one 25 point set.
- b) Three teams tie for last position in a playoff bracket: the team with the highest point differential (Team #1) shall receive a bye. Teams 2 & 3 shall play one 25 point set, and the winner of that set plays Team #1 in a 25 point set to determine who will receive the last position. Two 25 point sets total to break tie.

- c) Four teams tie for last position: As determined by point differential, Team #1 vs. Team #4 will play a 25 point set; Team #2 vs. Team #3 in a 25 point set; winners play a 25 point set to determine who will receive the last position. Three 25 point sets total to break tie.
- d) Three teams tie for two playoff positions: The team with the highest point differential will receive the first playoff position. The other two teams shall play one 25 point set for the remaining playoff position. If all three teams are tied based on head-to-head competition and point differential, follow the procedure outlined in 4b (Team #1 with the bye determined by a coin flip).