



2020 Community College Championship Tournament Format Guide

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Preliminary Games

The 24 teams will be divided into four pools of six teams each. Each of those pools will play a round robin during rounds 1–5 on Friday evening. Each team will receive a schedule identifying its matches (where, when, and against whom); schedules are never exchanged (i.e., this tournament does not use a card system).

At the end of the preliminary games, the teams in each pool will be ordered by win-loss record. The top two teams will advance to the first playoff pool, the third and fourth to the second playoff pool, and the fifth and sixth to the third playoff pool. Ties will be broken as described in the next section.

After round 5, all teams should come to HSB 105 (in the Health Sciences Building, the same location as the opening meeting) for the Results Confirmation Meeting. At that meeting, tournament staff will notify teams who will be involved in tiebreaker matches during round 6 on the following morning and let the other teams know how they will be positioned in the playoffs. Playoff schedules will be handed out at 9:20 a.m. on Saturday in the Building 1 atrium.

Round 6 Tiebreaker

If teams in a pool finish with identical records but both would be assigned to the same playoff pool (e.g., if the top two teams both finish 4–1), no tiebreaker game will be played, and teams will be seeded by points per tossup heard (PPTUH).

If a tie needs to be broken to determine playoff pool assignment, the tied teams will be designed “A,” “B,” and so on in decreasing order of PPTUH, and the following schemes will be used:

- 2 teams for 1 spot: A plays B; winner advances
- 3 teams for 1 spot: B plays C; winner plays A; winner advances to the higher playoff pool (both are half-games)
- 3 teams for 2 spots: A plays B; the winner advances to the higher playoff pool; the loser plays C, the winner of which advances to the higher playoff pool (both are half-games)
- 4 teams for 1 spot: A plays D while B plays C; winners play each other and the winner of that game advances to the highest playoff pool; the losers of the first game play each other and the loser of that game advances to the lowest playoff pool (all are half-games)
- 4 teams for 2 spots: A plays D while B plays C; each winner advances to the higher playoff pool

“Half-game” means an untimed game of 12 tossups (with bonuses), followed by ordinary overtime if necessary.

More complicated tie scenarios will be resolved according to the schemes described on NAQT’s website:

naqt.com/go/tournament-format-special-cases

Other than deciding the playoff pools to which each team is assigned, the results of round 6 tiebreaker games play no role in the team standings; in particular, they are not counted as part of a team’s record.

Teams not involved in a round 6 tiebreaker may watch tiebreaker matches (if any).

Playoffs

There will be three playoff pools of eight teams each. In rounds 7–12, each team will play the six teams in its playoff pool that it did not play in the preliminary matches. After round 12, the teams will be ordered by playoff pool and then playoff win-loss record. A team's playoff win-loss record consists (only) of the team's record in rounds 7–12 plus its record in the “carried-over” game against the other team that advanced to the same playoff pool from the same preliminary pool.

Overall Finals

There are several possible cases:

- If there are distinct #1 and #2 teams in the top playoff pool (in terms of playoff record, including the carried-over game), they will play an advantaged final. That is, the #2 team will need to win two games in a row to claim the championship, but the #1 team would only have to win one game.
- If two teams are tied for the top spot in the top playoff bracket, then they will play a single-game final.
- If three teams are tied for the top spot in the top playoff bracket, then they will be ordered by playoff PPTUH (including the “carried-over” game); the lower two teams will play a full game, the winner of which faces the top team in a single game for the championship.
- If there is a distinct #1 team but multiple teams are tied for #2, then the teams tied for #2 will resolve the tie using the appropriate scheme from the “Round 6 Tiebreaker” section. The winner will have the disadvantage in an advantaged final against the #1 team.

Placement Games

If there are originally three teams tied for second place and one of those three teams wins both tiebreaker games (resolved according to the fourth point under “Overall Finals,” above), then the losers of the two half-games will play a game for third place.

If teams not involved in the finals are tied for third through sixth place, one or more placement games will be played among the tied teams to determine the winners of those trophies. These matches will occur according to the “fully determined” tiebreaker schemes documented at the link in the “Round 6 Tiebreaker” section. If circumstances allow, the tournament director will replace half-games with full games.

Overall Rankings

Teams that participated in the finals or placement games will have any ties in which they were involved broken by their performance in those additional games.

Other ties remaining in the overall ranking will be left unbroken.

Trophies

The top six teams will receive team trophies, and their members (and coaches) will receive individual awards. In addition, the top twelve individual scorers will be given All-Star awards.

Individual awards will be based on the preliminary rounds (1–5), not the playoff rounds. Players must have at least 70 tossups heard (approximately 3.5 games' worth) to be eligible.

Qualifying for the Intercollegiate Championship Tournament

The top four teams will receive guaranteed invitations to the 2020 Intercollegiate Championship Tournament (ICT), which will be April 3–4 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois (near Chicago).

The remaining teams from this tournament will have D-Values computed as if this tournament had been a Division II four-year Sectional Championship Tournament, and they will be inserted into the ICT waitlist at the corresponding positions (and thus may earn invitations to the ICT).