



2018 Small School National Championship Tournament Format

Top Very Small School Award

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NAQT will recognize the top six teams from very small schools in the Traditional Public School division at the 2018 SSNCT. Very Small Schools ("VSS") are traditional public schools with 300 or fewer students in grades 10–12.

VSS teams will compete as part of the Traditional Public School division for the entirety of Saturday and Sunday. However, there may be additional "VSS playoff games" or "placement games" once they are eliminated from the overall division playoffs. Every VSS team will be assigned a VSS rank among its peers (as well as an overall rank in the entire division).

If one or more VSS teams finishes in the top four (that is, wins the overall division or is eliminated in Round 23 or later), then the rank of those top teams will be determined by their overall finish in the division and there will not be a separate VSS playoff or final. (Teams eliminated in the same round will still play placement games, as described below, as necessary to distinguish the rest of the top six.)

If no VSS teams finish in the top four, then there will be a separate VSS playoff whose structure depends on whether there is a unique highest finisher among VSS teams in the overall playoffs:

- If there is a unique highest finisher among VSS teams in the overall playoffs (that is, exactly one VSS team made it further than all others in the playoffs), then all VSS teams that finished immediately behind them in the overall playoffs will play each other according to the schemes detailed on the back of this sheet. The highest finishing team will play an advantaged final against the best of the "next highest" teams (and it will have the advantage in that final). In an advantaged final, the disadvantaged team needs to win two straight games; the advantaged team needs only to win one (and if it wins the first one, no second game is played). See *Example 2* on the back of this sheet.
- If there is a tie for highest finish among VSS teams in the overall playoffs (that is, the last remaining VSS teams were eliminated together), then those VSS teams will play against each other according to one of the "*n* teams for *n* places" schemes detailed on the back side of this sheet. See *Example 1* on the back of this sheet.

VSS teams that make the overall playoffs but which are not involved in the VSS playoffs/final, will be ranked according to the round in which they were eliminated (so that teams eliminated in the same round will be considered tied). However, placement games (according to the schemes listed on the back side of this sheet) will be played if necessary to distinguish the rest of the top six.

Once a VSS team is eliminated from the playoffs, it should go to the Information Desk to ascertain whether it will need to play a VSS playoff or placement game. If it does not need to play such a game, it may begin participating in consolation rounds.

VSS teams that do not make the overall playoffs will be given a VSS rank that follows their overall ranking in the division.

Playoff/Placement Schemes

The playoff and placement games will follow these schemes. In the following notation, "*n* teams" refers to the number of teams that were originally tied (by virtue of being eliminated in the same round of the overall playoffs), while "*n* places" refers to the number of ranking positions that need to be completely determined (starting at the top).

- 2 teams for 1 or 2 places: A plays B with the winner taking the top (or only) place
- 3 teams for 1 place: B plays C; winner plays A for the top place
- 3 teams for 2 or 3 places: B plays C; winner W plays A for the top place; if A wins, then W gets the second place, and the third team gets the third place (if any); if W wins, then A plays the loser of the B/C game for the second and third places (if any).
- 4 teams for 1 or 2 places: A plays D while B plays C; winners play for the place(s)
- 4 teams for 3 or 4 places: A plays D while B plays C; winners play for the top two places while losers play for the bottom place(s)
- 5 teams for 1 or 2 places: D plays E; winner plays A while B plays C; winners play for the place(s).
- 5 teams for 3 to 5 places: C plays D while B plays E; the two losers play for the bottom places (if necessary). Then W_{CD} plays A; the loser is third, and the winner plays W_{BE} for the top places.

In the above schemes, A–E represent the tied teams ranked by their original playoff seeds (that is, by Saturday wins then by PPTUH in Saturday games).

Other Notes

If zero or one VSS teams qualify for the overall playoffs, then the teams that went 5–5 on Saturday will be grouped together to provide the remaining teams for the VSS playoffs. If two to five VSS teams qualify for the overall playoffs, teams that went 5–5 on Saturday will play placement games for the trophies unclaimed by VSS teams in the overall playoffs. In either case, tournament staff will notify the chaperones of those teams by text message or phone call on Saturday night of their involvement in VSS playoff or placement games.

The separate VSS playoff and/or placement games may result in a VSS ranking that differs from the overall division ranking (including, potentially, having teams finish in a different relative order).

There are no special individual awards for players on VSS teams.

Examples

Example 1: If 20 VSS teams make the playoffs and 8 are eliminated in Round 17, 4 in Round 18, 4 in Round 19, 1 in Round 20, and 3 in Round 21, then the top 3 teams (eliminated in Round 21) would compete in the VSS playoffs using the "3 teams for 3 spaces" scheme to determine first, second, and third place. The single team eliminated in Round 20 would finish in fourth place (no placement games needed). The 4 teams from Round 19 would play placement games using the "4 teams for 2 places" scheme to determine fifth and sixth place. The other VSS teams would not play placement games.

Example 2: If 20 VSS teams make the overall playoffs and 6 are eliminated in Round 17, 5 in Round 18, 4 in Round 19, 4 in Round 20, and 1 in Round 21, then the four teams eliminated in Round 20 would compete in the VSS playoffs using the "4 teams for 4 spaces" scheme to determine a top team, third place, fourth place, and fifth place. That top team would then play the single team eliminated in Round 21 in an advantaged final for first and second place. The 4 teams eliminated in Round 19 would play placement games using the "4 teams for 1 space" scheme to determine sixth place.