

42. TIEBREAKING PROCEDURE: all parts of this procedure are mandatory. The steps should be followed in the order as they appear in the procedure.

(A) DETERMINING CONFERENCE STANDINGS

These rules apply for determining the final regular season standings in any sport in which a conference awards its conference championship on the basis of regular season competition.

(1) The conference standings shall be determined on the basis of the percentage of conference games won by each team at the end of the regular season, based on conference regulations and subject to the tiebreaking procedure which follows. The team finishing in first place shall be recognized as the conference champion; if a tie exists for first place, then conference co-champions, tri-champions, etc., shall be declared.

(2) If two or more teams have equal conference percentages at the end of the season, the team that has the edge in head-to-head competition will get the higher place in the standings. All conference games played against each other would count in the head-to-head competition.

Examples: the intent is to break the tie by using the tied teams. If there is a four-way tie for first and Team A and Team B are 2-1 while Team C and Team D are 1-2, in games among the four of them. A and B would be tied for first by virtue of their 2-1, with C and D tied for third. Then look at head-to-head between the two (A and B) to break that tie, and then between the other two (C and D) to break that remaining tie.

Teams A, B and C are tied for fourth in the conference standings with identical records. In games among the three, A was 3-1, B was 2-2 and C was 1-3. The tie is broken; A is fourth, B is fifth and C sixth.

Any time throughout the whole procedure that a multiple tie is reduced to two teams, no matter what criteria is being used, use head-to-head competition between those remaining if possible.

(B) DETERMINING CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT SEEDING

The following rules are used to seed conference tournaments on the basis of regular season standings. Use this section only to seed for conference tournaments and only after Part A is completed.

(1) Seed the tournament on the basis of final regular season standings; see Part A.

(2) If two or more teams are tied, and the teams played any non-conference games against each other, the team with the better record in all head-to-head games gets the higher conference seed. If there is a multiple tie (three or more teams), all teams must have played each other for non-conference games to be used. Note that use of these non-conference or tournament meetings prior to the conference tournament is ONLY for seeding in the conference tournament (exception C5).

Example: Team A and B split in regular season, but played one another in a non-conference game and A won. A would get the higher seed in the conference tournament. Say A and B were tied for fourth in an eight-team league and this occurred; A would get the higher seed in the tournament. However, the meeting in the conference tournament between A and B would be the tiebreaker between the two for determining NCHSAA playoff representatives (see Part C2).

(3) If there is still a tie for a tournament seed, it will be resolved by comparing how the tied teams fared against the rest of the conference until the tie is broken.

Example: A and B finished with equal conference records and split during the regular season, thereby tying for third place in the standings. They did not play each other in a non-conference game. Go to the number one position in the conference and compare how A and B did against that team. Say the tie cannot be resolved there (both teams split with the number-one team), so go to the number two team. Team A lost twice to the number two but B split with the number-two team. Therefore B would be seeded third and A fourth (even though they finished tied for third in the final standings).

Example: There is a four-way tie for first among A, B, C and D. Team A and B are each 2-1 while C and D are each 1-2 in games among the four. A and B are tied for the first seed, while C and D are tied for third seed. Now look at head to head competition between A and B to break that tie, and head to head between C and D to break the other remaining tie.

(4) If the tie still exists, a draw will be held by the tied teams for the seeds available. All tied teams for a position will draw with the numbers of the spots for which they are tied in a hat.

Example: A and B are tied for third and the tie is not resolved after going through the procedure B3 above. The numbers three and four are put in a hat, and the schools will draw and assume the seed of the number drawn. The drawing will be done in alphabetical order as the schools are listed in the NCHSAA Directory.

(C) DETERMINING NCHSAA PLAYOFF REPRESENTATIVES: The following rules are used to determine which teams earn available berths into the NCHSAA playoffs, awarded on the basis of regular season standings. These are used AFTER completion of the conference tournament, or BEFORE NCHSAA PLAYOFFS if there is no tournament.

(1) Award berths based on final regular season standings (see Section A). Note that if a tie is broken using head to head competition, the tie is broken from that point on and there is no need to use other criteria.

(2) If two are still tied in the final standings after being eliminated from the conference tournament, a special playoff game will be played unless the tied teams mutually agree to break the tie by other means.

The playoff game may not violate the weekly limitations, and it could be a preliminary game to the state playoffs or a game in the conference tournament. No playoff game shall be played prior to a conference tournament. A meeting between the tied teams which occurs in any round in the conference tournament would count as the playoff game.

(3) If both teams are eliminated from the conference tournament but can still play the playoff game and not violate the weekly limitations, it shall be played. Exception: If a team advances to the conference tournament finals, even if a playoff game would not violate the weekly limitations, the game will not be played, and the team that advances to the finals gets the higher seed.

(4) If three or more teams are tied, the team which advanced the furthest in the conference tournament will get the higher berth in the playoffs.

SPLIT CONFERENCE APPLICATION ONLY: If two or more teams are still tied, and the teams represent different classifications, berths will be awarded by separating teams into their respective classifications. Then head to head competition among the teams in the respective classifications must be considered if necessary.

(5) If the tie is not broken after (4), all previous head-to-head competition is used to break the tie (cannot be used with multiple ties).

(6) If there is still a tie, it will be resolved by comparing how the tied team fared against the rest of the conference, starting with the number one team and moving down, if necessary, throughout the conference until the tie is broken.

Example: A and B finished with equal conference records and split during the regular season, thereby tying for third place in the standings. A playoff game could not be played and they did not play each other in a non-conference game. Go to the number one position in the conference and compare how A and B did against that team. Say the tie cannot be resolved there (both teams split with the number-one team), so go to the number two team. Team A lost twice to the number two but B split with the number-two team. Therefore B would be seeded third and A fourth (even though they finished tied for third in the final standings).

(7) If the tie still exists, a draw will be held by the tied teams for the seeds available. All tied teams for a position will draw with the numbers of the spots for which they are tied in a hat.

Example: A and B are tied for third and the tie is not resolved after going through the procedure through B3 above. The numbers three and four are put in a hat, and the schools will draw and

assume the seed of the number drawn. The drawing will be done in alphabetical order as the schools are listed in the NCHSAA Directory.