



Resources

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State Basketball Tournament Committee

The WIAA State Basketball Tournament was created in 1923 an idea from University of Washington coaches Clarence "Hec" Edmondson and Dorsett "Tubby" Graves. Since the outset, the tournament has hosted the interest of many athletes, coaches and fans.

Over the years, the tournament structure has ranged from 8-team to 26-team elimination-style formats. Currently, the tournament features a 16-team regional format which leads to a final-8 team tournament that was implemented in 2011 to address declining attendance and meet the following WIAA Executive Board objectives:

- Create a more intriguing State Tournament by combining certain classifications at the same site
- Reduce overlap of winter and spring sports
- Reduce fatigue of players who play the entire tournament
- Reduce expenses for member schools, spectators and the Association
- Stabilize and increase the revenue of the WIAA

In response to work done by superintendents in 2014 and 2015 who hoped to return to a format where all 16 teams would play in arenas, the WIAA Executive Board took action during its January 2016 Board Meeting to create a State Basketball Tournament Committee. At the April 2016 Board Meeting, the Committee was expanded to include additional stakeholders and constituent groups to continue the study of the State Basketball Tournament format.

The Committee's objective, as directed by the Executive Board, was to explore alternative State Basketball Tournament formats that support the original Board objectives and also give consideration for the following:

- Overall Funding Model
- Overlap into Spring Sports
- Facility Availability
- Draw Criteria (Tournament Seeding)

The Committee met on May 1, 2016 to review the current State Basketball Tournament format and brainstorm alternatives. In addition to the current format, the Committee presented two alternative models for consideration at the WIAA Executive Board's June meeting.

The Committee also researched the concept of implementing a Rating Percentage Index (RPI) system to seed the top 16 teams after they have qualified for the State Basketball Tournament.

Below you will find a link to detailed information about each of the three formats including a summary of the format, venue considerations, financial considerations, key considerations by classification, pros, cons, and adherence to Board objectives. You will also find a link to a summary of the details of a proposed RPI system. The Committee will solicit feedback regarding the various format options and RPI system by way of a survey to member schools. The survey will be available from mid-August to mid-September of 2016.

The following State Basketball Tournament format options are presented in no particular order in regards to preference or recommendation:

[OPTION A](#) | [OPTION B](#) | [OPTION C \(Current State Format\)](#) | [RPI SYSTEM](#)

The Committee will spend the summer gathering information and answering questions about each format. After a thorough evaluation of the survey results, the Committee will then finalize their recommendation to the WIAA Executive Board as early as its September 2016 meeting.

Please note the WIAA Executive Board continuously strives to create a tournament format that is a great experience for

student-athletes, coaches, parents and fans. Besides creating a great atmosphere, this tournament format must be financially sustainable and feasible in regards to facility availability. The cost of facilities, declining attendance, ticket prices and burden to member schools all are major issues that the Executive Board must consider when making the final decision.

Thank you for your continued support of school programs in our state.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
Co-Chair, WIAA Executive Board, Assistant Director of Athletics Seattle Public Schools

Tim Thomsen
Co-Chair, WIAA Executive Board, Athletic Director Sumner School District

Greg Whitmore
Co-Chair, WIAA Executive Board, Athletic Director Lind-Ritzville HS/Ritzville SD

Cindy Adsit
WIAA Assistant Executive Director

Frequently Asked Questions

Why isn't the 16-team double elimination tournament format being discussed as a possible solution?

Answer

The 16-team double elimination tournament format is not being considered as an option because the tournament has not been financially feasible due to declining attendance and increasing costs of the large venues over several years. The declining revenue from tournaments is significant, because basketball revenue supports the operation of other Association activities. Because the 16-team double elimination tournament was a popular choice and was a great experience for student-athletes, many stakeholders have tried to devise a funding model to make this option financially feasible. However, at this point, there has been no sustainable answer to the financial piece. **Charging schools a state tournament entry fee is not a viable option for the Association, because of the concerns about the precedent that such a practice would set.** The other formats presented are 16-team tournament options that are believed to have high game interest, because they are mostly winner bracket type games.



Resources

[TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE HOME](#)

[FORMAT OPTION A DETAILS](#)

[FORMAT OPTION C \(CURRENT STATE\) FORMAT DETAILS](#)

[RPI SYSTEM DETAILS](#)

[QUESTIONS/FEEDBACK](#)

Format Option B

Tournament Format Summary

16 teams per gender, per classification, will play in the first round of games at Regional sites Friday or Saturday of Week 1. Teams will be seeded or drawn for positions 1-16 after they have qualified. Four games involving the top eight seeds will be played with both teams advancing to the second weekend regardless of the the outcome. The four other games involving seeds 9-16 will be loser-out contests. A total of 12 teams will advance to the final site for Week 2. The four teams that win their games among the top eight seeds will earn a bye in the 12-team tournament. The Round 1 games of Week 2 will be single elimination and the tournament will continue with an eight-team modified double elimination format in Rounds 2-4 of Week 2. Six trophies will be awarded per gender per classification.

[Format Option B Details](#) | [Bracket Example](#)

Format Option Details

WEEK 1: Regionals

- 16 Teams Seeded
- Games are played at regional sites
- Games are played either Friday or Saturday

Match-ups Result

#1 vs. #8 Winner to Round 2 w/ bye, Loser to Round 1
 #2 vs. #7 Winner to Round 2 w/ bye, Loser to Round 1
 #3 vs. #6 Winner to Round 2 w/ bye, Loser to Round 1
 #4 vs. #5 Winner to Round 2 w/ bye, Loser to Round 1
 #9 vs. #16 Winner to Round 1, Loser out
 #10 vs. #15 Winner to Round 1, Loser out
 #11 vs. #14 Winner to Round 1, Loser out
 #12 vs. #13 Winner to Round 1, Loser out

WEEK 2: Round 1

- 1B, 2B play at Spokane Arena, 1A, 2A play at Yakima Valley SunDome, 3A, 4A play at Tacoma Dome
- First round will include winners from the 9-16 seed games and losers from the 1-8 seed games
- The schedule below is based on the higher seed from Regionals winning

Match-up Result

6 Seed vs. 11 Seed Winner plays the 3 Seed
 7 Seed vs. 10 Seed Winner plays the 2 Seed
 5 Seed vs. 12 Seed Winner plays the 4 Seed
 8 Seed vs. 9 Seed Winner plays the 1 Seed

WEEK 2: Rounds 2-4 - Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Championships

- 1B, 2B play at Spokane Arena, 1A, 2A play at Yakima Valley SunDome, 3A, 4A play at Tacoma Dome
- Modified double-elimination to follow after Round 1
- 1st-6th Place trophies awarded for each gender and each classification

Key Considerations

[Venue](#) | [Financial](#) | [By Classification](#)

Venue Considerations

- 20-24 Regional venues required to host Regional games
- The Spokane Arena, Tacoma Dome and Yakima Valley SunDome are all available for adding games on Wednesday of the second week

Financial Considerations

- Total days of arena rental: 12
- Average cost per day of arena rental (2016): \$30,000

- Estimated facility cost increase: \$90,000
- Estimated cost increase compared to 2016 of two days of venue rental at 20 different Regional sites: \$0
- Estimated additional fans needed to cover facility cost increase alone: 8,500 (based on an average ticket price in 2016 of \$10.50)
- 48 more total games compared to the current format has the potential to bolster attendance and revenue figures

Key Considerations by Classification

None

Format Pros, Cons and Addressing Board Objectives

Format Pros | Format Cons | Addressing Board Objectives

Format Pros

- Utilizing local regional sites for fans in the surrounding area to attend the contests
- Two classifications play at the same site for Rounds 2-4
- Only four teams eliminated after Regionals
- Expenses are minimized for the teams that lose in the first round
- Potential interest in the second round games at the final site with the bye games on Thursday
- Only four teams will be eliminated after games on Wednesday
- Potential for a team to lose a game and still win a State Championship
- Total of 48 more games being played at the final sites compared to the current format

Format Cons

- Added expenses for facility rental
- Added time out of school
- Four teams will play four games in a row and five over two weekends
- Potential to play the same team twice (seeding challenges)
- Potential for a team to lose a game and still win a State Championship
- Tournament adds a fifth day - potential cost increase for fans and teams depending on game outcomes

Addressing Board Objectives

1. **Create a more intriguing state tournament by combining certain classifications at the same site.**
Two classifications play at each of the three arenas for Rounds 2-4.
2. **Reduce overlap of winter and spring sports.**
All tournaments are completed over the course of two weeks and limit the overlap into the spring sports season to just one week (consistent with current format).
3. **Reduce fatigue of players who play the entire tournament (four games).**
Potentially, four teams will play four games in a row and five games over two weekends.
4. **Reduce expenses for member schools, spectators and the Association.**
Potentially, four Schools will incur an extra day of expenses if their teams advance to the Championship.

Fans will incur an extra day of ticket and travel costs
5. **Stabilize and Increase revenue of the WIAA.**
Based on an average ticket price of \$10.50 in 2016, an additional 8,500 tickets will need to be sold to cover the \$90,000 in added arena rental costs. This does not factor additional costs for medical, security, staff, supplies, etc. Increasing attendance will need to be done with 48 more games on the schedule compared to the current format.

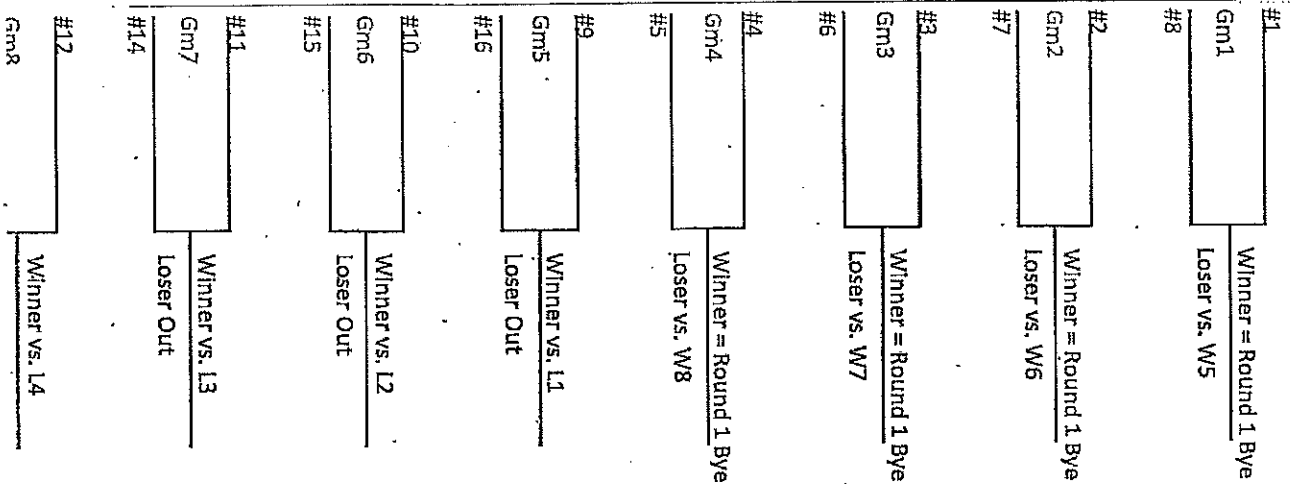
FAQ

Please submit questions regarding this format [HERE](#). Questions will be reviewed by the State Basketball Format Committee and responses will be posted below.

Question	Answer
Why can't all losing teams play on Friday?	There isn't enough court time to facilitate these games. Each site will feature two classifications; games shown on the bracket will be times two.

WEEK 1:

REGIONALS - Friday & Saturday



WEEK 2:

RD1 - Wednesday RD2 - Thursday RD3 - Friday RD4 - Saturday

