

ASSA State Championship Tournament Format

In an effort to more closely align with the Player Development Initiative (PDI) of one game per day for players, while also trying to ensure that the best team advances to Regional competition, ASSA has developed a new tournament format to meet these objectives. This new model also attempts to place more emphasis on ACSL match results, which will be a factor, among others, in determining seeding for State Championship. We also hope to limit travel expenses as much as possible while also maintaining the excitement and atmosphere of a State Championship event. Following, please find the information pertaining to the new model being implemented for the Fall of 2019 and moving forward. Note that in the event two weekends are required, the first weekend is known as Qualifying Weekend and the second weekend is Championship Weekend.

Two Team Bracket – This will be a two game series with the winner being determined based upon aggregate goals at the completion of the two matches. The first game will be played on Day 1 of Championship Weekend (i.e. Saturday) and the second game will be played on Day 2 of Championship Weekend (i.e. Sunday).

Three Team Bracket - This will consist of a semi-final match on Qualifying Weekend with the #2 seed against the #3 seed, with the winner advancing to play the #1 seed on Championship Weekend. With one team now eliminated following the semi-final match, this then becomes a two team bracket with the winner being determined based upon aggregate goals at the completion of a two game series on Championship Weekend. [See Two Team Bracket above.]

Four Team Bracket – Teams will be seeded 1-4 with #1 v #4 and #2 v #3 in a one game semi-final. These matches will be played on Qualifying Weekend. Winning teams from the semi-finals will advance to Championship Weekend and will play two games with the winner being determined based upon aggregate goals at the completion of a two game series. [See Two Team Bracket above.]

Five Team Bracket – On Day 1 of Qualifying Weekend, the #5 team will play the #4 team in a quarterfinal match (aka a “play-in” game). The winner will then play the #1 seed while #2 and #3 will play each other in one game semi-final matches that will be held on Day 2 of Qualifying Weekend. Winning teams from the semi-finals will advance to Championship Weekend and will play two games with the winner being determined based upon aggregate goals at the completion of a two game series. [See Two Team Bracket above.]

Six Team Bracket – On Day 1 of Qualifying Weekend, the #3 team will play the #6 team, while the #4 team will play the #5 team in quarterfinal play. The #1 and #2 teams will receive a bye to the semi-finals. Winning teams in the quarterfinals will advance to a semi-final on Day 1 of Championship Weekend with the #1 team playing the lowest remaining seed and the #2 team playing the highest remaining seed. Semi-final winners will then play a one game final on Day 2 of Championship Weekend.

Seven Team Bracket – On or before Qualifying Weekend, #6 will play #7 in a “play-in” game. This will then follow the Six Team Bracket format with #3 playing #6/7, while #4 plays #5 in quarterfinal matches on Day 1 of Qualifying Weekend. #1 and #2 will receive a bye to the semi-finals. Winning teams in the quarterfinals will advance to a semi-final on Day 1 of Championship Weekend with the #1 team playing the lowest remaining seed and the #2 team playing the highest remaining seed. Semi-final winners will then play a one game final on Day 2 of Championship Weekend. [See Six Team Bracket above.]

Eight Team Bracket – On Day 1 of Qualifying Weekend, the #5 seed will play the #8 seed while the #6 seed will play the #7 seed. The #3 and #4 seeds will receive a bye to the quarterfinals. On Day 2 of Qualifying Weekend, the #3 seed will play the lowest remaining seed while the #4 seed will play the highest remaining seed in quarterfinal matches. The #1 and #2 seeds will receive a bye to the semi-finals. On Day 1 of Championship Weekend, the #1 seed will play the lowest remaining seed and the #2 seed will play the highest remaining seed in semi-final matches. Semi-final winners will then play a one game final on Day 2 of Championship Weekend.

NOTE: Acceptance into this event is not guaranteed, as the Cups Committee has the discretion to reject any team to maintain scheduling balance by limiting the bracket to an even number of teams.

NOTE: At the discretion of the Cups Committee, depending on the location of the participating teams, some games may be permitted to occur at venues other than the host venue for Qualifying Weekend and Championship Weekend.