

NAF TOURNAMENT SERIES

The concept of a cumulative tournament series (also popularly known as tournament championships, grand prix, etc.) is not a new one. But this initiative aims to provide guidance and incentives so that more NAF members can participate.

Tournament Series Types

There are two types of NAF Tournament Series, each with distinct rules and means of accruing points.

Structured Tournament Series - A Structured Tournament Series benefits from giving its participating coaches a very clear idea of which events will be included. It also uses a format in which only a certain number of top scores count, so that participants don't feel that they must attend every single tournament in order to have a chance of winning the series.

A Structured Series must:

- Name one Tournament Series Organizer (all participating tournament organizers are eligible) who has agreed to track the results of the series.
- Consist of at least 4 tournaments.
- Consist of at least 15 rounds.
- Have a list of all participating tournaments (with actual or estimated dates for each) prior to the beginning of the series.
- Apply to the Tournament Director for approval prior to the first tournament in the series. (Eventually, a dedicated Tournament Series Director might be appointed to relieve the TD of this duty.)

The following considerations are left up to each TS and its TSO to decide:

- The number or percentage of tournaments that must be attended for a coach to be eligible for prizes. [Suggested: 50%]
- The number of scores that will be counted to determine the winner. In other words, each coach's top scores will be counted toward their total, the rest will be discarded. [Suggested: 3]
- Maximum number of tournaments in the series. [Suggested: 12]

Tournament organizers wishing to participate must:

- Contact the TSO with their request prior to the beginning of the series.
- Provide the TSO with the results of their tournament within 14 days of the tournament's conclusion.

The participating tournaments and all scoring details should be decided and announced beforehand. This will allow coaches to know exactly what level of participation is required in order to qualify.

Open Tournament Series - An Open Tournament Series is ideal for regions with a developing or unpredictable tournament scene. It doesn't require as much planning, but its events might be more difficult for participating coaches and organizers to keep track of.

An Open Series must:

- Name one Tournament Series Organizer (TSO) who has agreed to track the results of the series. All participating tournament organizers are eligible.
- Consist of at least 4 tournaments. These 4, unlike the rest in the Series, must be named at the time the Series is announced and sanctioned.
- Consist of at least 15 rounds.
- Have a clearly defined geographic region and length.
[For example: "Any tournament taking place in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia between January 1 and December 31 of 2015 is eligible to participate in *The Southeastern Tournament Series 2015*."]]
- Apply to the Tournament Director for approval prior to the first tournament in the series. (Eventually, a dedicated Tournament Series Director might be appointed to relieve the TD of this duty.)

Tournament organizers wishing to participate must:

- Contact the TSO with their intentions 60 days prior to their tournament's date.
- Provide the TSO with the results of their tournament within 14 days of the tournament's conclusion.

Considerations:

- Barring any special circumstances, any tournament taking place within the Series' defined limits and giving adequate notice as defined above should be accepted into the TS. If a TSO feels that this system is being abused, please contact the Tournament Director.
- Coaches will be awarded points based on their performance in **each** TS event they participate in. This is a cumulative score, not an average.
- There is no minimum number of tournaments that a participating coach must attend.

General considerations (apply to both types of series):

- Coaches may not accrue points unless they are registered with the NAF **at the time a tournament takes place**. In other words, someone can't sign up in December and retroactively assume points for tournaments they played in during previous months.
- A tournament must receive advance permission (from the TD/TSD) if it wants to take part in more than one series. This will usually not be permitted.

Suggested scoring

(All scoring is PER tournament, but in the case of structured tournaments only a certain predetermined number of top scores will count.)

- **+10 to +1 points for top 10 placement, on a declining scale.** In other words, a 1st-place finish would be worth 10 points, a 2nd-place finish would be worth 9 points, on down to a 10th- place finish being worth 1 point.
- **+1 point per 10 places below them in the standings.** (Examples: A coach finishing 1st in a 32-coach tournament would receive a bonus of +3 because there are 30+ coaches below them. A coach finishing 1st in an 11-coach tournament would receive a bonus of +1 because there are 10 coaches below them. A coach finishing first in a 10-coach tournament would receive no bonus because there are only 9 coaches below them.)
- **+1 point per day of the tournament.** Given to all participants.
- **Organizer bonus: +1 point per 10 coaches in the tournament** (only for organizers who do not play in their own event). (Note that this is unlikely to be of much use in a Structured Series, but offers some consolation for organizers who miss out on playing in their own events in Open Series.)
- It is also suggested that coaches be required to coach at least **2 different types of teams**. In the case of structured series, their total score must include at least 1 result from this 2nd race. This rule can be scaled based on the size of the series.
- **Tiebreakers, Structured:** In Structured Series, it is suggested that coaches receive .1 points for each tournament they participate in. This score is taken in whole and is not reduced to "best 3" as with other scores. So someone who participated in 9 tournaments might have a total score of 30.9, beating out someone who only played in 8 tournaments and has 30.8.
- **Tiebreakers, Open:** It is suggested that the first tiebreaker for Open Series be "most first place finishes," followed by "most second place finishes" and so on.
- **Secondary tiebreakers:** Series may set further tiebreakers at their own discretion. In the event that tiebreakers are exhausted, random determination may be used. It may also appropriate to give out "ties" in certain cases (a pair of 2nd place prizes and no 3rd place prize, for instance).

Prizes

Prizes for 1st-3rd place will be provided by the NAF and distributed through TSOs. There will also be a prize available for the coach who has achieved the best score using Stunty teams. As it will require separate tracking, awarding this prize is at the discretion of the series organizers but strongly encouraged.

Series organizers may choose to award further prizes at their own discretion, but the NAF will not be involved in settling any issues arising from that.