



WFTDA COMPETITIVE DIVISION SYSTEMS

Background

The Women's Flat Track Derby Association's Competitive Divisions System organizes WFTDA leagues' chartered teams into an organization-wide game requirement and tournament seeding structure, which determines Playoff eligibility and distributes leagues across Playoffs based on ranking.

This Competitive Divisions System hinges on a math-based, membership-wide ranking of member leagues via the WFTDA Rankings Calculator and supports the organization's continued growth and promotes close, even competition in WFTDA-organized Playoff tournaments.

Basic Principles

- This Competitive Divisions System is based on a Competitive Season that runs from December 1 through June 30 of the following year.
- Each charter team must complete a minimum of four sanctioned games to be eligible for Playoff Tournaments. Only games played between December 1 and June 30 of the following year are eligible to fulfill these requirements.
- Teams are seeded into the appropriate WFTDA Division Playoffs based on June 30 rankings, provided they have met minimum game play and Membership requirements.
- Eligible teams are assigned to Playoffs based on ranking, using S-curve seeding.
- Each tournament supplies three teams to a 12-team Championship bracket.

Competitive Season

The Competitive Season starts on December 1 of a given year. Teams have until June 30 of the following year to complete a minimum of four sanctioned games and fulfill their minimum game play requirements.

At that time the rankings, which are calculated on games played for the 12-month period prior to June 30, will be used to determine seeding in that year's Playoff Tournaments.

If a team does not fulfill game play requirements, they will retain their ranking, but will not be seeded into a Playoff. Instead, the next ranked and eligible team will be moved up into the seeding spot vacated by the ineligible team.



Tournament Structure

Teams are ranked on June 30 and these rankings are used to seed four Division 1 (D1) Playoff tournaments (teams ranked 1-40) and two Division 2 (D2) Playoff tournaments (teams ranked 41-60).

The four D1 Playoff tournaments and two D2 Playoff tournaments feature 10-team, single-elimination brackets with a consolation bracket, played over a three-day weekend. Championships have a 12-team, single-elimination, pooled play structure competing for the Hydra. In addition, each top finisher of one D2 Playoff plays the second finisher of the other D2 Playoff and then the winners of those games meet in a D2 Final and the losers meet in a D2 consolation game for third place.

Tournament Seeding

Playoffs are seeded using an S-shaped seeding model. An S-curve seeding structure provides for an even distribution of top seeds at each tournament. This means the #1, #2, #3, and #4 ranked leagues each go to a different tournament, and each subsequent seed is distributed across tournaments following an S-shaped pattern, until all 40 teams are assigned. D2 tournaments follow the same structure, only with teams distributed across two tournaments.

**D1 PLAYOFFS DISTRIBUTION OF RANKINGS
(40 TEAMS ACROSS 4 TOURNAMENTS)**

	PLAYOFF	#1	#2	#3	#4
DIVISION 1 TOURNAMENT	Seed 1	1	2	3	4
	Seed 2	8	7	6	5
	Seed 3	9	10	11	12
	Seed 4	16	15	14	13
	Seed 5	17	18	19	20
	Seed 6	24	23	22	21
	Seed 7	25	26	27	28
	Seed 8	32	31	30	29
	Seed 9	33	34	35	36
	Seed 10	40	39	38	37

**D2 PLAYOFFS DISTRIBUTION OF RANKINGS
(20 TEAMS ACROSS 2 TOURNAMENTS)**

	PLAYOFF	#1	#2
DIVISION 2 TOURNAMENT	Seed 1	41	42
	Seed 2	44	43
	Seed 3	45	46
	Seed 4	48	47
	Seed 5	49	50
	Seed 6	52	51
	Seed 7	53	54
	Seed 8	56	55
	Seed 9	57	58
	Seed 10	60	59

The WFTDA will consider proximity for teams and their fans when matching a bracket to a location.

- If a hosting league qualifies for Playoffs, the bracket they are seeded into will be assigned to their location.
- Absent a host league, WFTDA's tournament team will calculate the concentration of teams via driving distance and/or median flight cost for all teams in a bracket for each tournament location. Preference will be given to the location with the lowest overall average cost per team.

Exceptional circumstances:

- Multiple host leagues seeding into the same bracket: If two Playoff hosts are seeded into the same bracket, the lower-seeded team will swap places with another team seeded into the same bracket spot. For example, teams ranked 9 to 12 are all seeded into the #3 spot in their respective brackets. The team that would gain the most geographic advantage is given preference for the swap.
- At the discretion of WFTDA Games Oversight, an exception can be made for a league with a demonstrated, exceptionally large and dedicated fan base in close proximity to one of the Playoff locations.
- Prior to tournament seeding, leagues may inform WFTDA Games Oversight of any financial or other hardship associated with travel to a particular Playoff location. This information may be taken into account when assigning brackets. Teams that are equally seeded may be moved to a different bracket to accommodate requests.

Future Vision

The Competitive Divisions Structure replaced Regions as they were conceived in 2007, but as the WFTDA sees growth in membership numbers and the level of competitive play worldwide, the competitive structure can evolve accordingly. It is likely that as competitive growth occurs outside North America, Divisions will need to be layered with competitive structures that take geography into account by country or continent.

For More Information

For more information about the WFTDA Competitive Divisions Structure and WFTDA Playoff Tournaments, please contact Karen Kuhn, Managing Director of Games at karen@wftda.com.

