

See other sheet for How to access Brackets, Bout numbers, and Mat Assignments on Track

BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT STARTS BE SURE TO CHECK THE BRACKETS AND MAKE SURE YOUR WRESTLER IS LISTED AND IS IN THE CORRECT WEIGHT CLASS & AGE DIVISION.

How to Read a Bracket

Bracket sheets usually indicate a large number of kids (over 5) in a designated weight and age division. You will look for the sheet that shows your wrestler's status, division and weight at the top of the page. The number next to the names indicate what bout they will be on the specified mat. Generally, your wrestler will remain on the same mat or group of mats throughout the day. Within that box there will be a name at the top and one inside – those will be the wrestlers facing each other. The winner of the bout will advance to the right of the box and the loser will go to the left of the box. There will be numbers within all boxes to indicate their next bout.

Here is an example bracket:

A tournament bracket is a diagram of "who wrestles who." Brackets can be drawn for 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, or more contestants.

Suppose a weight class has only four entries - Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison. A four-person bracket for these contestants might look like this:



This would be the championship (top) bracket for this particular weight class. In the first round, Washington wrestles Adams, and Jefferson wrestles Madison.

Suppose Washington defeats Adams, and Jefferson defeats Madison. Washington and Jefferson would advance.



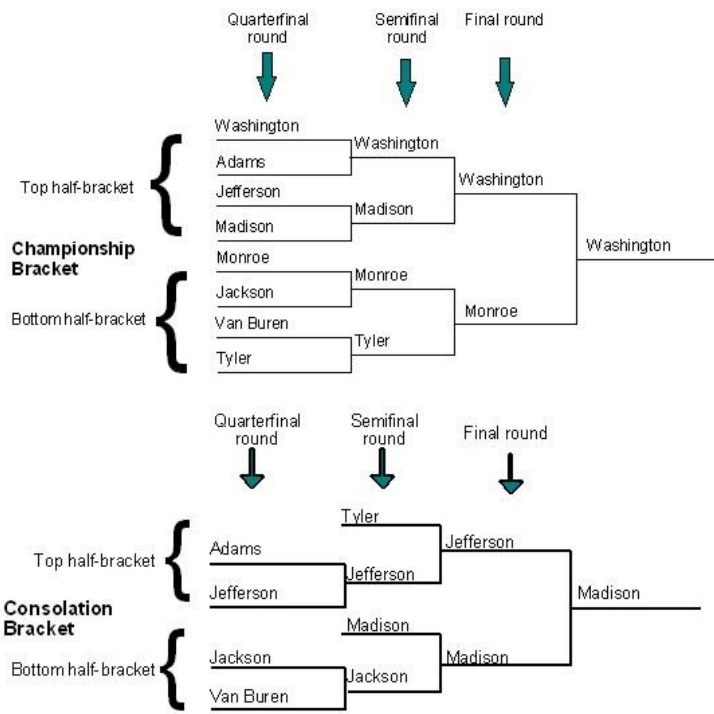
If the tournament is single elimination (that is, lose once and you are out), then Adams and Madison are eliminated from the tournament.

If the tournament is double elimination (that is, lose twice and you are out), Adams and Madison drop down to the consolation (losers) bracket. They may then continue wrestling in the tournament finish as high as third place. If the tournament scores six or eight places, the wrestler may still be alive in the tournament even with a second loss, if that second loss occurs in the consolation quarterfinals or consolation semifinals.



The brackets above indicate that in the next round, Washington and Jefferson will wrestle for the championship (first and second place) and Adams and Madison will wrestle for third place.

The following example of a completed eight person bracket is used to illustrate a few other items.



Note that the round before the final is the "semifinal." The round before the semifinal is the "quarterfinal."

Note that in this bracket the losers in the championship first round (in this case, the quarterfinal round) drop straight down to the consolation first round. However, the losers of the championship semifinals cross in the consolation bracket – that is, the loser of the championship semifinal in the top half-bracket drops to the consolation bottom half-bracket. The championship semifinal loser in the bottom half-bracket drops to the top half-bracket in the consolation semifinals.

Contestants cross in the consolation brackets at some point in order to avoid the possibility of a competitor wrestling the same opponent twice in the same tournament prior to the consolation

finals.

The round in which the cross occurs varies depending on the chosen format for a particular tournament.

The following diagram of a sixteen person bracket illustrates crossing in the quarterfinal round. Note that in this example, the loser of match "A" in the championship bracket drops to line "A" in the consolation bracket. The loser of match "B" in the championship bracket drops to line "B" in the consolation bracket, etc.

The loser of match "L" in the championship bracket (in the top half-bracket) drops to line "L" in the consolation bracket (in the bottom half-bracket). Loser at match "K" drops to line "K," etc. Since this bracket crossed in the quarterfinals, no cross is done in the semifinals - loser of match "M" in the top bracket drops to line "M" in the consolation bracket.

