

### **III. UNIVERSAL TIE-BREAKER (qualifying for league/region tournament)**

1. The win-loss records of the teams in league play shall determine seeding into a league/region tournament. The league's/region's administrators will determine win-loss records based on previously approved schedules. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken using the following procedures:
2. Tie between two (2) teams
  - A. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.
  - B. If the tie remains after head-to-head, each tied team shall receive one (1) point for each match won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the higher seed.
  - C. If the tie remains, the team which won the most "games" won between the tied teams during regular-season matches will receive the higher seed.

Example of "most games won" between the tied teams:

Match 1 – Team A defeats Team B by a match score of 3-1

Match 2 – Team B defeats Team A by a match score of 3-2

Result: Team A wins the tie-breaker by a total game score of 5-4.

- D. If the tie remains, the team which scored the most "points" between the tied teams during the regular-season matches (games) will receive the higher seed.

Example of "most points scored" between the tied teams:

Match 1 – Team A defeated Team B, 15-5, 15-14, 15-10  
(Team A 45 - Team B 29)

Match 2 – Team B defeated Team A, 15-10, 7-15, 16-14, 15-2  
(Team B 53 - Team A 41)

Result: Team A wins the tie-breaker by a total point score of 86-82.

- E. If the tie remains, the team which won the second league match scheduled between the two teams will be the higher seed.

EXCEPTION: Step 'E' is only to be used for seeding. A team shall not be eliminated from league or region competition by the use of step 'E.'

If the tie is not broken in step 'A' - 'D' and a team will be eliminated, a playoff match will be played following the end of the regular season.

The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for this contest.

3. Tie between three (3) or more teams
  - A. In all cases of ties involving more than two teams, as each team is removed from the tie, all other tied teams revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.
  - B. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams

Example of multiple team ties:

- i. Games
    - Team A defeated Team B twice and split with Team C
    - Team B lost to Team A twice but defeated Team C twice
    - Team C lost to Team B twice and split with Team A
  - ii. Mini Standings
    - Team A is 3-1
    - Team B is 2-2
    - Team C is 1-3
  - iii. Results
    - Team A is awarded highest seed
    - Team B is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against Team C
- C. If the tie remains, tied teams will count their total number of game wins in matches against other tied teams. The team with the most number of game wins will receive the highest seed. The remaining teams will then revert back to head-to-head.

Example of game wins:

- i. Games
  - Team A defeated Team B, 3-2
  - Team B defeated Team C, 3-0
  - Team C defeated Team A, 3-1
- ii. Mini Standings
  - Team A has four (4) game wins
  - Team B has five (5) game wins
  - Team C has three (3) game wins
- iii. Results
  - Team B is awarded highest seed
  - Team C is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against Team A

- D. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each match won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.
- E. If a tie still exists, tied teams will count their total number of points scored against them in games against other tied teams. The team with the fewest number of points scored against them will receive the highest seed. The other teams will revert back to head-to-head.

Example of points scored:

- i. Games
    - Team A defeated Team B, 15-5, 15-14, 15-10
    - Team B defeated Team C, 15-10, 7-15, 16-14, 15-2
    - Team C defeated Team A, 15-13, 15-5, 5-15, 3-15, 15-3
  - ii. Mini Standings
    - Points against Team A       $29 + 53 = 82$
    - Points against Team B       $45 + 41 = 86$
    - Points against Team C       $53 + 51 = 104$
  - iii. Results
    - Team A is awarded highest seed
    - Team B is awarded second highest seed because of head-to-head record against Team C
- F. If a tie still exists and all tied teams, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region tournament, are guaranteed entrance into the tournament, then a coin toss will be used to determine seeding. The winner of any coin flip will receive the highest seed. Remaining teams would revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.
  - G. If a tie still exists and one or more of the tied teams must, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region tournament, be eliminated, playoff game(s) will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for the event.

NOTE: In the event of multiple team tie as outlined in step 'F,' the tied teams will draw numbers. The team drawing #1 will have a bye and will play the winner of the first playoff game. All games will be scheduled as soon as possible. Seeding will be established by the results of the playoff.