

4NCL Swiss Pairing Guidelines

Updated for the 2025-26 season

Seeding

The seeding of teams at the start of the season will take into account the following:

- Final standings of teams from the previous season, starting with relegated teams first, then teams renewing their entries in Division 4, followed by new entries
- The Tournament Performance Rating (TPR) of teams from the previous season
- The ratings of players from the registration lists as of the final registration deadline for the first round of the division

The seeding of returning teams will be weighted more heavily towards previous season's results, while the ranking of new teams will be weighted more heavily towards the strength of their registration lists at the registration deadline for WE1.

Seedings will not be changed during the season.

Pairings

Pairings will be made using the 2022 Olympiad pairing rules on swiss-manager using the seedings as described above, with the exception of triangular matches as described below.

Triangular Matches

For weekends where there is an odd number of teams taking part, a triangular match will be used to eliminate any need for a team to be given a bye.

The teams that play in the triangular will be selected by the Chief Arbiter before the weekend, who will use the following guidelines:

- Teams shall only be involved in one triangular match per season, unless otherwise necessary.
- The three teams in the triangular should be close in the standings, and none of the three shall have played each other earlier in the season (and will not play each other after the triangular rounds).
 - If a triangular is used in one of the early weekends, the teams selected will reflect the nature of early swiss pairing rounds (e.g. in WE1 picking teams at each quartile of the seedings, in a similar manner to a first round H1 vs H2 pairing).
- The three teams should ideally be around the midpoint of the standings, to minimise the risk of pairing jams in later rounds.

For Round 11, a 'half triangular' will be used if necessary. Each of the three matches in the triangular will take place over 3 boards played on one day, with each match being awarded half the usual match points.

More details can be found on the [4NCL website](#).

Other Notes

The Chief Arbiter may choose to deviate from, or amend these guidelines, where it is deemed to be in the best interests of the league.