

Divisioning Basketball

1. Step one: Divide teams by 5-on-5 and 3-on-3.

2. Step two: Divide Teams by Gender.

Divide teams into two groups based upon gender. Female teams shall compete against other female teams and male teams shall compete against other male teams. Mixed gender teams shall be divisioned with male teams unless there are sufficient mixed gender teams of similar ability to make a separate division.

3. Step three: Divide Teams by Age.

Divide male and female teams into the following age groups: ages 15 and under; 16-21; and 22 and over. The age group of a team is determined by the age of the oldest athlete on that team on the date of the opening of the competition

4. Step four: Divide by team class

Divide male and female teams by team class. Team class is the makeup of the team. Example: **TMM** = Traditional **Master Male** or **USM** = Unified **Senior Male**.

5. Step five: Divide teams by Levels/Ability

Divide teams based upon level. Programs must first decide if their team can play their competition by the rules that apply. Levels 1-2 must be able to play full court basketball by regular high school rules. Levels 3-4 will play full court basketball with Special Olympics slightly modified rules. Teams that play 3-on-3 are teams that can't play full court with slight modifications and are too talented to play in the skills competition.

- Level 1-2 may play against each other to help teams identify which of the two levels they fit. It is ultimately up to the Sports Management Team or Tournament Committee to decide which level the team participates.
- Level 3-4 may play against each other to help teams identify which of the two levels they fit. It is ultimately up to the Sports Management Team or Tournament Committee to decide which level the team participates
- All 3-on-3 teams should play against each other
- Teams should compete against other teams within the same team class.
- Game scores will be used to help division.

6. Step six: Monitor/Evaluate teams during the tournament

Once teams have been assigned to divisions, teams will be monitored by the State Office or Tournament Committee.

7. Step seven: Create Divisions for Tournament

Create divisions of no less than two and no more than eight teams by applying steps 1-6.

- Resolving Divisioning Issues
 - a. When the above process has been completed there will be instances where there will still be less than three competitors or teams in each division. In such cases the following method should be used:
 - 1) Modify Age Groups: Age groups may be broadened to achieve an equitable division of no less than three teams. The age group should then be re-named to accurately reflect the age range of the competitors. However any International Federation / National Governing Body rules that preclude competition between athletes of different ages (e.g. between children and adults) must be adhered to.
If there are still divisions of less than two teams:
 - 2) Modify level/Ability Range: The ability range may be broadened If there are still divisions of less than two competitors or teams:
 - 3) Combine athletes of different genders provided that it will not pose a risk to the health and safety of athletes to do so.
 - b. Final divisions of less than two teams are only permissible once age groups and ability range have been broadened as far as possible within the above guidelines.
 - c. Where exceptions to these criteria are necessary, the Sports management Team or Tournament Committee will review proposed modifications to these criteria and make a final decision based on the goal of providing the most dignified and challenging competition experience for each athlete. The Sports management Team or Tournament Committee has final authority concerning divisions and any variation from these criteria. Protests based on Divisioning are not allowed.