

POWER LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS – AN EXPLANATION (Updated 9/5/2019)

SUMMARY

Power League is a series of 4 or 5 tournaments hosted by the CEVA Region. Generally speaking, tournaments are scheduled once or twice a month from January through April.

The 12s, 16s, and 18s age divisions play four Power League tournaments in a season, while the 14s age division plays five.

SEEDING

The Junior Girls' Committee assigns a seed to every team who registers for Power League in a respective age division. Some of the information this committee uses to seed teams for a season include last year's Power League finish, last year's Regional Championship finish, and relevant information submitted by club directors on their Power League registration forms. The Committee is largely reliant on club directors letting them know about the strengths and weaknesses of their teams.

The seeds produced by the Committee are posted on the CEVA website around mid-December.

The seeds for the 16s and 18s that are produced in December are ***not final***. Teams in these two age divisions can "challenge" their seeds in some circumstances, and have the opportunity to be reseeded after the MLK weekend tournaments are finished. ***NOTE*** – schedules for the January qualifiers in these two age divisions will not be posted until the reseeding process is completed.

POWER LEAGUE QUALIFIER (also known as PLQ, PL Qualifier, the Qualifier)

The first tournament in each age division is a ***qualifier*** where teams can improve their seeds for the rest of the season. In some cases, teams can move between 25-35 seeding places at the January qualifiers. The 14s division plays two qualifiers (hence, five tournaments, not four).

Teams are grouped into divisions, consisting of 16, 24, or 32 teams, and based on results, can move within those divisions at the Qualifier. The divisions are based on the seeds from the Junior Girls' Committee. For example, seeds 1-32 will be in a division, and those 32 teams will be broken down into pools (usually 4-team pools).

The Qualifier works in a "seed-takeover" manner. Meaning, if a team finishes higher than a team initially seeded above them, they'll take over that higher seed. For example, a pool consists of Team A, Team B, Team C, and Team D. These four teams are seeded 5, 10, 15, and 20, respectively. If Team A finishes pool play 0-3, and Team D finishes pool play 3-0, Team D will move forward as the #5 seed. Team A, having finished 4th in the pool, moves forward as the #20 seed.

Since Qualifiers work in this manner, higher seeds in each division have less chance of improving their seeds. An example can be seen in a division consisting of seeds 33-64. Seed #33 will be in a pool with seeds #48, #49, and #64. Even if they win all their pool matches, their seed won't change going into bracket – they'll still be seed #33. Whereas if seed #64 wins even one match, and finishes 3rd in pool, they'll improve their ranking by 15 places – up to #49 – going into bracket.

Qualifiers consist of both pool play and bracket play – the exact number of matches depends on the age division (each age group is slightly different in terms of exact format).

Where a team finishes in the Qualifier determines their seed moving into the subsequent Power League tournaments.

POWER LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS (also known as PL)

Each age division plays in three Power League Tournaments – usually in February, March, and April (one per month typically). These tournaments are different from the Qualifiers.

Based on the results from the Qualifiers, teams are placed into 6- or 8-team divisions, and in Power League tournaments, those groups of 6-8 teams play each other only.

Power League tournaments consist of both pool play and bracket play. Once again, the exact format depends on the age division. In the 14s, 16s, and 18s Divisions, there is only one bracket match.

At the end of the tournaments each month, the top three finishing teams in each individual division will move “up” to the next highest division, while the bottom three finishers will move “down” to the next lowest division. For example, in the Gold and Silver Divisions (seeds 1-8 and 9-16, respectively), the teams in Silver who finish 9th, 10th, and 11th – the three highest places – will move “up” to the Gold Division for the following month’s PL tournament, and will actually be seeded 6th, 7th and 8th. The three teams in Gold who finished 6th, 7th and 8th will move “down” to the Silver Division, and will move forward as the 9th, 10th, and 11th seeds. You will sometimes hear this movement referred to as a “flop” between divisions.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seeding for Regional Championships is based on final Power League ranking. It is important to note that not all teams who play Power League choose to play in Regionals, therefore, a team’s finish in April is not necessarily indicative of where they will be seeded in Regionals.

At Regionals, teams are broken into groups of 16 teams generally, and they play the teams within their groups. All teams play a 2-day tournament consisting of both pool play and bracket play. Teams who are in the top 16 seeds at Regionals (top 12 in the 16s and 18s Divisions) can play a different format, including crossovers and bigger brackets, depending on results.

POWER LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS vs FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENTS

There are a number of clubs in our region who run “club-hosted” or “friendship” tournaments during the year (you will often hear those two terms used interchangeably). CEVA sanctions these tournaments for purposes of insurance, and will assist in scheduling officials for them. However, the results from these tournaments have no bearing on Power League seeding or Regionals seeding.

These tournaments serve a couple purposes. First, they give teams more chances to play, and gives them opportunities to see different competition compared to Power League. These events also can serve as a fundraiser for the club or organization sponsoring them.