

UK Ultimate Club Outdoor Tour and EUCS Competition Rules (2017)

See the [UK Ultimate General Tournament Rules](#) for those rules which apply to all UKU sanctioned events. This document pertains to all Tour events and the UKU sanctioned EUCS events unless otherwise specified.

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1 Introduction

1.1 *The UKU Competition Structure*

- 1.1.1 These rules apply to the Open, Women and Mixed Tour series and to UKU Regionals and Nationals. Where there are specific differences for a given division or tournament they are highlighted within this document. For general rules applied to all tournaments please see the [UK Ultimate General Tournament Rules](#)
- 1.1.2 The UK competition season is split into the UKU Tour season (a Mixed division Tour, followed by an Open and Women's division Tour), and the European Ultimate Championship Series ('EUCS').
- 1.1.3 The *UKU* Tour consists of three events in each division. Teams score ranking points per their final position at a given tournament.
- 1.1.4 Events may consist of multiple tournaments.
- 1.1.5 The *UKU* Ranking is calculated from each team's total number of Ranking Points. Ranking points are awarded based on finishing position at events. This ranking is used to determine the Tour winners.
- 1.1.6 UKU Nationals 2017 will take place across four divisions – Open, Women, Mixed and Masters. In the Open, Women's and Mixed divisions, UKU Nationals will form part of the EUCS season; Masters UKU Nationals will be a stand-alone tournament with no rostering requirements and will only take place with sufficient entries.
- 1.1.7 Seeding for the 2017 Tour will be primarily based on the results of the 2016 Tour. For teams who demonstrate that they began the tour seeded in the wrong division (and were constrained in finishing position by the nature of the 3-tier format of the Open Tour), we expect to put more weight on the late season results rather than the overall tour average. Other relevant information will be considered where appropriate and any new teams will be seeded as accurately as possible. Any significant and relevant seeding information should be passed to the UKU Event Coordinator on benji@heywood@ukultimate.com for consideration.
- 1.1.8 The Tour in the Open division will be separated into an A Tour & multiple regional B Tours. These will not necessarily take place at the same venue. The A Tour will consist of at least 16 teams. The total capacity of the B-Tour across all venues is intended to provide sufficient space for all teams that want to compete.
- 1.1.9 The UKU Competitions Committee oversees the UKU Tour and consists of the Director of Competitions, the Events Coordinator, a Board representative on behalf of the UKU Board and several volunteers representing a diverse cross-section of the *UKU* players. The Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the Tour; complaints or queries and rules clarifications will be relayed to them by the DoC and as such should be addressed to him/her at ukudoc@ukultimate.com. More details about the UKU Competitions Committee [can be found here](#).
- 1.1.10 Any protests over the organisation, application of the rules, rostering, teams or individual players need to be addressed as indicated in the UKU Conduct and Complaints Policy, which can be found here:
http://www.ukultimate.com/about_uku/board_documents

1.2 *European Ultimate Championship Series (EUCS)*

1.2.1 The European Ultimate Championship Series is formally separate from the UKU Tour and takes place after the completion of the Tour season.

1.2.2 In the Open, Mixed and Women's division, the European Ultimate Championship Series consists of:

- Regional qualifying tournaments in the UK (UK-Regionals / EUCQ), leading to
- UKU Nationals (EUCR), leading to
- European finals (EUCF)

2 Rosters and Eligibility

2.1 *Rosters (General)*

2.1.1 All players entering must be on a roster with their UKU membership number. (Guest players at Tour see rules on Guests, 2.4.1) Clubs are expected (via the team manager) to ensure all roster information on the UKU website is up to date prior to the first tour event of the season. This includes adding new players, removing ex-players and ensuring their membership status' are at the required level.

2.1.2 A player may only play for one team at each event. Players playing for two teams may incur penalties for both teams represented (See Penalties, Section 8). This extends across divisions, so that a player may not play for both a Women's and an Open team at one event.

2.1.3 A distinction is made between "club" and "team" because some clubs may be able to field more than one team.

2.2 *Tour Rosters*

2.2.1 Club rosters must be in place before the first Tour event that your team enters. The rosters are handled through the UKU website – each player should register with their club on the club's page on the UKU website. The UKU's primary interest with rosters is to ensure that all players at UKU events are indeed members of the UKU for reasons relating to liability insurance. Clubs that fail to support this requirement may face stiff penalties. See section 4.2.1, Default Penalties.

2.2.1.1 Whilst the rosters enable the UKU to check if teams are complying with the eligibility rules we expect clubs and players to apply spirit of the game to all eligibility and roster rules – thereby making the need to check up on people redundant. This should not be taken to mean that there will be no checks.

2.2.2 Club rosters are fixed for all three of the Tour events in each division. Players may be added to the roster at any time so long as they comply with Eligibility rules. Removals or transfers will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances would include, for example, being "dropped" by the club with which a player initially rosters; or moving house and being nearer to a new team. Please contact [ukudoc(at)ukultimate(dot)com], in advance, with any questions.

2.2.3 An eligible player may join a club roster at any time during the season.

2.2.4 Clubs with more than one team:

2.2.4.1 A club with multiple teams may select those teams on whatever basis they

prefer, but they must consistently use the same basis for splitting their teams across all events in the Tour. It is not permissible, for example, to deliberately strengthen a 2nd team, or to pick a 1st team from what were previously two evenly-matched teams. Clearly if a club is running a 1st and 2nd team then the selection is an internal matter for the club; however, the likely implication of concerns or complaints about teams abusing this is that the option will be removed in future years.

2.2.4.2 Where a Tour tournament is geographically or temporally split, that tournament is nevertheless treated as one event for the purposes of rules [2.1.2] and [2.2.4.1].

2.3 EUCS Rosters

2.3.1 All UKU members are free to play with any team at the start of the EUCS season, regardless of their affiliation during the Tour season.

2.3.2 Between UKU Nationals (EUCR) and EUCF, teams are bound only by the EUCS eligibility rules – at time of writing these are at <http://www.ultimatefederation.eu/club-champs/eligibility-rules.php>

2.3.3 Any player that competes for a team at UKU-Regionals (EUCQ) is deemed to be on that team's roster. Players that do not compete at UKU-Regionals are considered to be "unrostered" and are free to join any team prior to UKU-Nationals.

2.3.3.1 If a team advances to UKU Nationals, then all their rostered players are locked into that roster and may not play for another team at UKU Nationals **in any division**.

2.3.4 A team that does not advance to UKU Nationals - either by failure to qualify or by declining their spot - loses its roster. Players from such a team may be added to rosters of other teams in any division (subject, for the open division, to the limits in the EUCS Rules). A team who does not initially qualify but subsequently receives and accepts a place (for example due to last minute drop out) **retains the Roster from Regionals** and all players on the Roster **must not play for another team at Nationals**.

2.3.4.1 Players from a **non-advancing** team in a multi-team club are all free to roster with another team **within that club** that is advancing to Nationals. Such players do not count towards the limit on roster additions in the EUCS rules. NOTE: This does NOT apply between UKU Nationals and EUCF – if a club sends 2 teams to UKU Nationals, and only one advances to EUCF, they have no additional right to move players between squads. The rule exists purely to allow the maximum number of teams and players to play at UKU Regionals and does not supersede the EUCS rules.

2.3.4.2 Teams at UKU Regionals who do not intend to advance (even if they attain a qualifying position) must inform the DoC as early as possible, in order that the schedule can be adjusted to ensure fair qualification for other teams.

2.4 Eligibility

2.4.1 UKU Membership enables any player living in the UK to roster for a UK club. Foreign-based players may roster to a UK club, provided that the UK club is clearly the player's primary ultimate club *in that division*.

2.4.1.1 "Primary ultimate club" means that such a player does not compete regularly (more than once in a season) at other tournaments with another ultimate team in any

other country, and especially, but not only, at national or international level competition.

2.4.1.2 Note that the rules clearly prevent a North American based player joining a UK roster during the European season and then playing the UPA series because such a player's "primary ultimate club" is clearly the one in the US. Such a player may play as a guest only.

2.4.2 Where a club or player suspects there may be some cause for doubt about an issue of eligibility it is the club's responsibility to highlight the issue in writing to the DoC as quickly as possible and obtain written clarification.

2.4.2.1 In the event of investigating a complaint about eligibility, the UKUCC will not take personal expense or inconvenience into account where a club has failed to obtain written clarification on a potential issue in advance.

2.4.3 Non-UK-resident players must have public liability insurance cover. Typically this would be provided as part of the membership of their home ultimate or flying disc federation, or might be included in their travel insurance. The player and team they are playing for are deemed to be confirming they have checked this if the player plays.

2.5 Exceptions

2.5.1 Guest players

2.5.1.1 In the Open and Women's divisions, any team is allowed to pick up one guest player, outside of the normal rostering requirements, at each Tour tournament.

2.5.1.2 In the Mixed division each team may pick up one male and one female guest.

2.5.1.3 The guest player would normally be a visiting/travelling foreign player and it is for these players that the rule is introduced. UK-resident players may also play for anyone under this rule.

2.5.1.4 **No exceptions** will be made to this rule. Do not ask for any additional guests.

2.5.1.5 All guest players must be registered with UKU via the website (this may be done by the team contact if the guest has no access) but does not need to roster with the team. There is a temporary option membership available for players that do not wish to take out full annual memberships (See rules on eligibility, 2.4).

2.5.2 Foreign teams intending to play the entire Tour season

2.5.2.1 Any foreign team whose players register as UKU members will be given the same rights as other teams for the Tour season, but may not play as a UK club in the EUCS and may not qualify for representation at World or European Club Events.

2.5.2.2 At the discretion of the UKU Board the visiting team's players may not be required to join the UKU, but in this case they will all be members of their home ultimate or flying disc federation. Please contact admin[at]ukultimate[dot]com for more details.

2.5.3 GB teams

2.5.3.1 In order to provide an opportunity for GB teams to have competitive training the roster rules will allow GB players to play for GB in the Tour even if they are rostered to another club. GB teams' participation will be at the discretion of the Competition Committee.

2.5.3.2 GB players that intend to play with their club team at some events and GB at

other events should roster with their club. They will be free to play with GB at no penalty to either themselves or their club. Players that only intend to play for GB should roster with GB.

2.5.3.3 This exception does not extend to players playing for BOTH GB and their club at the same event.

2.5.4 GB teams and visiting foreign teams not intending to play the whole Tour season will be stripped out of the results of a tournament before Tour points are awarded – e.g. a team finishing 3rd behind GB and one other team will score points for 2nd place.

2.6 *Squad sizes*

See the [UK Ultimate General Tournament Rules](#) for advice on Squad Sizes at UK Ultimate sanctioned events.

2.7 Teams who are unable, in a given point, to field the required number of female or male players may not play additional players of the other gender, and may not put pressure on the opposition to choose differently. If they cannot field the requisite players of a gender then they must either play with those they have for that point or offer to forfeit the game. It is not considered unspirited, at Tour-level tournaments, to choose a ratio that the opposition cannot match.

3 Kit

3.1 *Dangerous kit*

Protective clothing or equipment is permitted as long as it does not present a hazard to other players; such as hard padding (i.e. plastic skating/roller-blading knee pads).

3.2 *Nationals*

3.2.1 All teams entering Mixed, Open or Womens Club Nationals will be required to provide all team members with matching, individually numbered shirts in both a light and dark strip. These shirts can be of any reasonable (e.g. non-offensive) design.

3.2.2 Teams are required to wear matching shorts (this applies to all divisions).

3.2.3 There is no restriction on the number of layers and clothing worn under the team strip.

3.2.4 Failure to comply with the above regulations may result in a fine, payable by the club, for each player breaching the regulations. The fine will be £20 per player at Nationals. The UKU does not undertake to examine every player's kit, and will not accept in mitigation that players on other teams went unpunished. Please be aware that incorrect kit runs the risk of a fine.

3.3 *UK Regionals*

In order not to discourage new teams, teams at UK Regionals are required only to have shirts of substantially the same colour, in both light and dark, which enable them to be distinguished from their opponents.

3.4 *All other sanctioned events*

3.4.1 All teams are required to have shirts of substantially the same colour, in both light and dark.

3.4.2 Teams are strongly encouraged to provide genuinely matching numbered shirts, and

matching shorts, in order to improve the image of the sport to any spectators. However, UKU recognises that these events exist for the benefit of the players, not the public, and teams will not be penalised for minor kit mismatches. UKU will attempt to direct external interest in Ultimate towards UKU Nationals, where the kit rules will be in force.

3.5 What does 'Matching shirts' mean?

3.5.1 All articles are of the same design (not including sleeve length).

3.5.2 In deciding whether a team does not have matching shirts we will apply the following test: "Would a reasonable, neutral spectator notice from the sideline that members of the same team are wearing shirts of a different design?"

3.5.3 Teams should note that it is extremely difficult to obtain matching designs over multiple seasons and are encouraged to plan ahead - i.e. if you want to retain the same shirts for more than one year, buy extras at the beginning so that you have enough for new players or replacements of lost/traded shirts.

4 Entering Tour Tournaments

Tour tournament entry requirements will be announced through the UKU Event Announcements newsletter. Information on this newsletter is available here:

http://www.ukultimate.com/newsletter/uku_event_announcements

Events will also be posted on relevant mailing groups (e.g. BritDisc and UniUltimate) but this should not be considered the definitive source of information relating to UKU events.

4.1 Entry Procedure - Open Tour

4.1.1 The closing date for entry to all three tour events will be May 12th.

4.1.2 A team must pay the tournament entry fee in full to the TD, by the closing date (unless otherwise arranged directly with the TD).

4.1.3 Any teams entering less than two weeks before the tournament *may* be fined an additional £50 in entry fee by the UKU.

4.1.4 A team may withdraw from a tournament up to the closing date and then receive a full refund of any payments that have been made. A representative from the team must tell both the TD and the UKU Event Coordinator on benji@heywood.ukultimate.com.

4.2 Entry Procedure - Mixed and Womens Tour

4.2.1 The closing date for each event will be announced when entries are opened.

4.2.2 A team must pay the tournament entry fee in full to the TD, by the closing date (unless otherwise arranged directly with the TD).

4.2.3 Any teams entering less than two weeks before the tournament *may* be fined an additional £50 in by UKU.

4.2.4 A team may withdraw from a tournament up to the closing date and then receive a full refund of any payments that have been made. A representative from the team must tell both the TD and the UKU Event Coordinator on benji@heywood.ukultimate.com.

4.3 Distribution of places at Tour tournaments

4.3.1 OPEN DIVISION

N = 12 teams will receive a “protected status” to attend the A-Tour venue. These are the top 12 ranked teams from UKU Tour 2016. For the avoidance of doubt these teams are NOT guaranteed to play in the A Tour at all three events, they are simply guaranteed entry to that venue.

All other open teams will be split approximately in half and assigned to “North” and “South” based on their location. Note that these “Northern” and “Southern” groupings

- a. will not be linked to the regions used in any other UKU competitions,
- b. will not be based on a fixed, pre-determined geographical criteria,
- c. may be adjusted from a purely latitude value to take account of the relative locations of the events

4.3.1.1 In the event that Tour 1 is oversubscribed at the closing date, the UKU Competitions Committee will determine entry. Priority will be given as follows:

- Protected teams
- New teams, foreign teams, teams representing GB or much-changed teams believed likely by the competitions committee (based on e.g. known personnel or early season results) to finish in the top 24.
- Teams ranked in the top 32 of the previous year’s tour overall.
- Teams whose participation the UKU Competitions Committee believe will benefit the growth of Ultimate – for example, but not limited to, local teams who may not yet be ready to travel to other tournaments, or teams based in underrepresented geographical areas.
- UKU affiliated clubs
- Remaining teams, in order of their total tour points from the previous year.
- Teams with no record from the previous year will be below those with a ranking, and will be separated by drawing lots should the need arise.

4.3.1.2 If events for Tour 2 or 3 are oversubscribed at the closing date, the UKU Competitions Committee will determine entry. Priority for the events will be given as follows:

- Protected teams
- New teams, foreign teams, teams representing GB or much-changed teams believed likely by the competitions committee (based on e.g. known personnel or early season results) to finish in the top 24.
- Teams whose participation the UKU Competitions Committee believe will benefit the growth of Ultimate – for example, but not limited to, local teams who may not yet be ready to travel to other tournaments, or teams based in underrepresented geographical areas.
- Teams allocated to the region of the event at the start of the season.
- Teams ranked in the top 32 of the previous year’s tour overall.
- UKU affiliated clubs
- “Local teams” allocated to the other region: priority to be determined by the UKU Competitions Committee, primarily based on the relative distances between teams and the two tournament locations.
- Remaining teams in order of their total tour points from the previous year.

- Teams with no record from the previous year will be below those with a ranking, and will be separated by drawing lots should the need arise.

4.3.1.3 Once the closing date has passed, any unfilled places at events will be offered on a first-pay, first-play basis

4.3.2 WOMENS DIVISION

4.3.2.1 In 2017 we intend to allow all teams to enter provided they do so before the deadline. If that number exceeds 24 teams, we may move to a system where places are allocated as follows:

- Teams ranked in the top 12 of the previous tournament (or the previous year overall, for T1).

- New teams, foreign teams, teams representing GB or much-changed teams believed likely by the competitions committee (based on e.g. known personnel or early season results) believed likely by the competitions committee to finish in the top 8.

- Teams whose participation the UKU Competitions Committee believe will benefit the growth of Ultimate – for example, but not limited to, local teams who may not yet be ready to travel to other tournaments, or teams based in underrepresented geographical areas.

- UKU Affiliated Clubs

- Teams unable to enter the previous event due to over-subscription or non-entry (Tours 2 & 3 only).

- Remaining teams, in order of their finish in previous events/years.

4.3.2.2 Once the closing date has passed, any unfilled places at the tournament will be offered on a first-pay, first-play basis.

4.3.3 MIXED DIVISION

4.3.3.1 In the event that an event is oversubscribed at the closing date, the UKU Competitions Committee will determine entry. Priority will be given as follows:

- Teams ranked in the top 32 of the previous tournament.

- New teams, foreign teams, teams representing GB or much-changed teams believed likely by the competitions committee (based on e.g. known personnel or early season results) to finish in the top 24.

- Teams whose participation the UKU Competitions Committee believe will benefit the growth of Ultimate – for example, but not limited to, local teams who may not yet be ready to travel to other tournaments, or teams based in underrepresented geographical areas.

- UKU affiliated clubs

- Teams unable to enter the previous event due to over-subscription or non-entry (Tours 2 & 3 only).

- Remaining teams, in order of their finish in previous events/years.

4.3.3.2 Once the closing date has passed, any unfilled places at the tournament will be offered on a first-pay, first-play basis.

4.3.4 *Blacklist*

4.3.4.1 Teams that default on the entry procedures may be moved to the Blacklist by the

Competitions Committee. Teams on the Blacklist will be given low priority at oversubscribed tournaments, as described above.

- 4.3.4.2 Sometimes there may be a genuine reason for defaulting, and penalties will not necessarily be incurred in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the UKUCC. If you foresee any chance of your team defaulting, you are advised to communicate with the UKU Event Coordinator on benji[dot]heywood[at]ukultimate[dot]com.

4.3.5 Default Penalties

Sometimes things will go wrong. Hopefully the following will cover most situations. Where a club defaults on entry, the penalties below may be applied. For multi-team clubs, if one team is placed on the blacklist, all teams from that club entering or defaulting the event would be moved to the blacklist; *i.e.* a club entering two teams into a tournament, but withdrawing one, may have penalties applied to both the team that withdraws and the team that enters. Clubs are expected to do all that they can to avoid dropouts in the last few days before a tournament, including if necessary dropping players down from higher teams (but note that 4.3.4.2 still applies).

1. Enter, but withdraw before the closing date.
 - a. *All payments refunded.*
 - b. *No penalty.*
2. Enter, but then withdraw following the closing date.
 - a. *LIABLE for 100% of fees.*
3. Enter, but then withdraw within a week of the event
 - a. *LIABLE for 100% of fees.*
 - b. *Drop to Blacklist.*
 - c. *Lose 5% of final ranking score PER DAY after the default date, to be deducted at the end of the Tour.*

5 Ranking Points - *The Scoring System*

The below details the ranking points system in use for Mixed and Womens Tour. The Open Tour ranking points system is under review and will be announced prior to Open Tour 1.

- 5.1 The scoring system is fixed for positions 1 – 16. The points scored by teams finishing below 16th vary depending on the number of teams at the tournament.
- 5.2 Within the fixed points (1 – 16) there are bonus points for certain finishing positions; in particular 1st, 5th, and 13th.
- 5.3 Teams scoring points below that of 16th, finishing in m'th position (with N teams in the tournament) score $80 * (N+1-m) / (N-16)$ points, (rounding to the nearest integer).
- 5.4 The points for the top 16 teams awarded normally as per the algorithm are as follows: 1st 250, 2nd 230, 3rd 222, 4th 210, 5th 205, 6th 190, 7th 182, 8th 170, 9th 162, 10th 150, 11th 141, 12th 130, 13th 125, 14th 110, 15th 101, 16th 90.

6 UKU National Championships

6.1 Notes

6.1.1 The goals of UKU National Championships are as follows:

6.1.1.1 Competition to crown the UK National Champions

6.1.1.2 Should be open and available to all UK clubs. "Open to all" should be achieved through a minimal number of qualification rounds - i.e. it is expected that there would be a National Finals with only a limited number of places available

6.1.1.3 Does not necessarily need to rank teams other than as required to decide the winners and any positions being used as qualification for later events (e.g. international events)

6.1.1.4 The UKU's primary "showcase event" – we will aim to build a spectator base and spend more effort on publicising this event outside the ultimate community.

6.1.2 All division's will have a regional qualification round to support the "Open to all" criteria, and to promote local competitions. Details of this structure are provided later in this document.

6.1.3 There will be a separate event for the UKU Masters nationals.

6.2 Open Division

6.2.1 The Regions

The structure is based on 12 small regions although this does not mean we actually have 12 regional tournaments each year. The regions are as follows:

6.2.1.1 Home nations:

Scotland (Sc), Northern Ireland (NI), Wales (Wa)

England divided into nine further regions broadly in-line with the Regional Development Agencies, and a definition used by Sport England to group their County Sports Partnerships.

North-East England (NE)

North-West England (NW)

Yorkshire & Humberside (Y&H)

East of England (EE)

East Midlands (EM)

West Midlands (WM)

Greater London (GL)

South East (SE)

South West (SW)

See the map "National.pdf" on the website for details – the bold boundary lines mark the edges of our regions. If in doubt please contact us.

6.2.1.2 For the foreseeable future we will tend to combine some of these regions into two or 3 larger regional qualifiers.

6.2.1.3 Regionals is open to teams that do not expect or intend to qualify for Nationals. There is a small risk that those teams might affect the qualification places at Nationals, but in practice this is relatively unlikely, and is also managed on an ad-hoc basis at individual regional qualifiers where known. We take this risk on the basis that

the benefits of promoting local participation exceed the risks of some teams not qualifying for nationals as a result.

- 6.2.1.4 The UKU Scheduling committee will be involved in the formats and schedules for each Regional Qualifier to ensure that the format follows an appropriate multiple-elimination approach for the positions around the qualification boundary.

6.2.2 *Defining a Club's Region*

- 6.2.2.1 Each club will be required to specify the region in which they are based. Clubs are expected to do this based on the home addresses of their players and/or their primary practice location.

- 6.2.2.2 It is well understood that neither of these will work for all teams. In those cases the teams will be asked to apply to join the region they believe is most appropriate to them. Final decision will be with the Competitions Committee, and clubs should also note that they will not be able to change their region from year to year. Clubs will have the option of applying to the Competitions Committee to change region, but there will need to be a reasonable explanation, and the request may not be granted.

6.2.2.3 *Exceptions*

We want these tournaments to be accessible to all. It is inevitable when defining regional boundaries like this that some teams will find that their regional event is further away than the regional event in a neighbouring region. For this reason, teams that are not in the top ranked 24 teams (by previous and current year rankings) will be free to apply to attend their preferred event. The Competition Committee reserves the right to refuse this request to teams that appear strong enough to compete for a qualification place but do not have a ranking for some reason.

6.2.3 *Qualification for Nationals (Bids per Region)*

In this context we are using the word "bid" to mean a qualification place at Nationals. Bids per region are calculated using results from Nationals from the previous year, using the same system as the EUF use for the allocation of bids. "EUCR Bid Allocation System" is available here:

<http://www.ultimatefederation.eu/club-champs/bid-allocation-system-eucr.php>

- 6.2.3.1 Algorithm how to determine the number of bids per session in each division:

6.2.3.1.1 Line up the finishing order from the previous year.

6.2.3.1.2 For every section with no participants last year, add 1 spot to the bottom of the list.

6.2.3.1.3 For every section with at least 1 participant, label the lowest finisher with an L.

6.2.3.1.4 For every section with 2 or more participants, label the second lowest finisher with an S.

6.2.3.1.5 Look at the lowest S.

6.2.3.1.6 If there are L which are higher, relabel the highest L with an X and add a spot for that region labeled X above the highest S below that spot. Relabel that lowest S with an X. Repeat this step until nothing happens anymore.

6.2.3.1.7 Delete all labels from the first spot of each section

- 6.2.3.1.8 Delete the lowest teams labeled with S, L or X (unlabeled teams stay!) until exactly the expected number of allocatable bids remain.
- 6.2.3.2 In 2017 it is expected that some regions will be amalgamated. The number of bids a 2017-region receives will be the sum of the number of bids of the 2016-regions that make up that 2017-region.
- 6.2.4 Seeding at Nationals
- 6.2.4.1 Seeding is based on the Nationals Results of the previous year combined with the results from Regionals. I.e. national results earn a particular seeding position for a specific finishing position at each Regionals; and then the results of the Regionals determine which teams takes that seeding position. New region bids will be seeded last in the order they are added by the algorithm.
- 6.2.4.2 In previous years there was a rule that required the Competition Committee to consider eliminating regional rematches in Rounds 1 and 2. This rule has been removed.