

SRVA Junior Tournament Formats

Using SRVA Central Registration System

The following described formats are the play schedules that can be utilized for SRVA tournaments that are using the Central Registration System. Each tournament director must select only one of these formats as part of the application process or choose to obtain a waiver from the Central Registration System. These formats cannot be combined as our online system can only support one play schedule at a time. Teams entering tournaments through the SRVA Central Registration System need to be aware of the format to be used and make decisions based on those tournaments that will provide the play schedule that they desire. Each event will indicate the format to be used.

Regular Format:

This format and the longest standing, advances the top two teams only from each pool to the playoffs and utilizes 4 and 5-team pools mostly. The use of a 6-team round robin pool can be used if necessary. With the Regular format, we ensure that all teams get 8 sets of play within the pool play portion as all teams do not advance to the playoffs. In order to achieve this, we use crossover or reseed matches for the 4-team pools. There are special cases for division sizes of 6, 7 and 11 teams that deviate from the usual 4 or 5-team pools, however, the 8 set minimum is maintained for all divisions. For 7-team divisions, a 4-team pool and a single 3-team pool that plays automatic 3 sets will be used and this is only used if only 7 teams are entered. For this 7- team division, all teams advance to playoffs to achieve the 8 set minimum play. Play scheduling for this format is usually two sets to 21 points but based on division sizes may differ in some cases.

Expected Amount of Play: In most division sizes, the teams that do not advance to the playoffs will get 8 sets or 4 matches of play in pool play. Those that advance to the playoffs will get 10 or more sets (5 matches) of play in most cases.

Expected Tournament Duration: Pool play will typically take about 9 hours. Playoffs will be about an hour per playoff round and total duration varies dependant on division size.

Gold/Silver Format:

This format was requested by tournament directors several years ago to allow teams more play opportunities. This format also uses 4 and 5-team pools primarily and the crossover or reseed matches to achieve 8 sets of play in pool along with exceptions for those odd division sizes listed above for the Standard Format. Where this format differs; it does not use any tie break sets after pool play and the top four teams usually advance to the playoffs. This format results in most teams seeing 10 sets of play and runs a little longer than the Standard Format. It also has a time restriction for pool play that if it runs past a set time, the semis and maybe finals will be single set matches to prevent extreme late finish times.

Expected Amount of Play: In most division sizes, the teams will get 10 sets or 5 matches of play. Only 5th place teams in a pool will get 8 sets (4 matches) of play. Those that go further into the playoffs will get 12 or more sets (6 matches) of play in most cases.

Expected Tournament Duration: Pool play will typically take about 9 hours. Playoffs will be about an hour per playoff round and varies dependant on division size and usually takes at least 3 rounds.

Modified Gold/Silver Format:

There has been limited use of a Modified Gold/Silver Format where the tournament team limits are set to get even 4-team pools only and not use the crossover or reseed matches. This format still results in at least 8 sets of play but without the reseed matches and runs a little shorter in duration than the other two formats. In this format only 4-team pool are used in pool play and all teams advance to the playoffs to achieve the 8 set minimum. The limiting part of this format is that if you do not hit 8, 12, 16, or 20 teams exactly, the format will not work properly. If entered into this type of tournament and the even 4 team threshold is not achieved, play schedules may not be as described above. In addition, depending on how the host will accommodate the adjustment, scheduling may not be possible with the SRVA Online System.

Expected Amount of Play: The teams will get 8 sets or 4 matches of play during pool play and the first round of playoffs. Those that go further into the playoffs will get 10 or more sets (5 matches) of play.

Expected Tournament Duration: Pool play will typically take about 6 hours. Playoffs will be about an hour per playoff round and varies dependant on division size and usually takes at least 3 rounds.

Wave Format:

In 2021 we saw a new formats to battle Covid situations and most popular was the Wave Format. This format was used in wave play and teams would play in an AM or PM wave. Usually with the AM wave starting at 8:00 AM and the PM wave starting at 2:00 or 3:00 PM. In most cases, the teams played a 3-team round robin format for pool play and then based on their finish advanced to a playoff round robin 3-team pool with the winner of the Gold pool being the tournament champion. In some specific division sizes, teams might advance to a playoff bracket with consolation matches to ensure the 8 sets of play. In most cases the first round matches were two sets to 25 points with the second round or playoffs being 2 of 3 sets to 25 points. This format does offer teams 8 sets of play in a shorter length of time. This format has as similar limitation like the Modified Gold/Silver in that you have to hit multiples of 3 teams in each division for it to work. When you do not hit even 3-team pools, the options for playing the remaining teams in a 6-hour wave become challenging. Again as with the Modified Gold/Silver, depending on how the host will accommodate the adjustment, scheduling may not be possible with the SRVA Online System.

Expected Amount of Play: The teams will get 4 sets or 2 matches of play during the first round of pool play. During the second round of 3-team pools or the first round of the playoffs with consolation, they will get additional 4 sets or 2 matches. For division sizes that utilize playoffs, some teams may get more than 8 sets of play.

Expected Tournament Duration: The first round of pool play will typically take about 3 hours. The second round or playoffs will be about 3 hours. Total duration runs about 6 hours.

Waivered Tournaments from the SRVA Central Registration System:

For events that are not using the SRVA Central Registration System, play formats are left up to the tournament host with the expectation that a minimum of 8 sets of play will be offered. These events are allowed to use formats that are not described above. Teams entering these types of tournaments will not use the SRVA Central Registration System and will be directed to other scheduling software or websites for entering those events. Play formats may be provided on their websites for your consideration. In general, if a multi-day tournament, most tournaments will utilize 4-team pools in each round as much as possible. For single day tournaments, those formats previously described are common but not required.