



We know sometimes there are questions about how teams qualify for playoffs and the whole seeding process. We want to help our member schools and their fans better understand the process. What follows are some frequently asked questions we get about seeding.

FAQ Is the bracket size the same in each classification?

No; the bracket sizes vary by classification and by sport. Here is the breakdown:

Baseball, Soccer and Softball:
1A and 4A use a 48-team bracket
2A and 3A use a 64-team bracket

Basketball and Volleyball:
4A has a 48-team bracket
1A, 2A and 3A use a 64-team bracket

Football is the only sport that is subdivided. This means schools in each classification are sorted by Average Daily Membership numbers (or ADM for short) so that teams are playing against teams closer to their school size.

Bracket Breakdown:

- 1A, 1AA, 4A and 4AA use a 24-team bracket
- 2A, 2AA, 3A and 3AAA use a 32-team bracket

Of note, the only predetermined brackets are those used for lacrosse, tennis and wrestling. Predetermined brackets are based solely on conference finishes.

FAQ How are qualifiers determined in a split conference?

The highest finishing team from a given classification will automatically qualify, regardless of overall conference finish.

Here's an example:

1A/2A Split Conference

Finish	School	Classification
1	School A	2A
2	School B	2A
3	School C	2A
4	School D	1A
5	School E	1A

In this example, **School A** and **School D** both earn a #1 automatic berth.

FAQ How do conference results factor in qualifying and seeding?



After the regular season is over, the qualification process begins at the conference level. If a team finishes first in the conference, it is automatically guaranteed a spot in the brackets. Since not all conferences have the same number of teams and in an effort to be fair, the automatic qualifiers are modified as follows:

- Conferences with 1 to 4 teams receive 1 automatic qualifier
- Conferences with 5 to 8 teams receive 2 automatic qualifiers
- Conferences with 9 or more teams receive 3 automatic qualifiers

Important note about conference tournaments:

If a team other than the regular season champion wins the tournament, that team will automatically qualify for the playoffs, but will be seeded as an at-large berth.

Each of the 57 NCHSAA conferences has an administrator (or conference president) who, prior to seeding day, enters all final regular season standings and other important information into the sport-specific seeding database by the NCHSAA staff.

FAQ Once the conference results are in, what happens next?

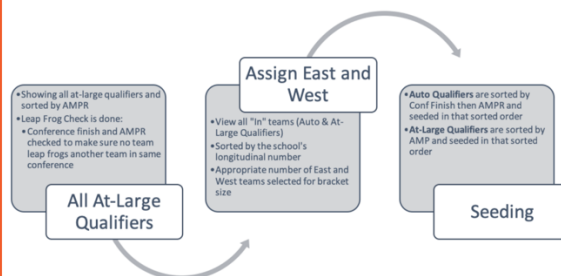
The NCHSAA partners with MaxPreps for game schedules and results. On the morning a sport is to be seeded, NCHSAA staff downloads sport specific results and combines that data with the conference finish results.



Throughout the season, NCHSAA staff posts the Adjusted MaxPreps Rankings (AMPR). These rankings are run especially for the NCHSAA and are different from the rankings you see on the MaxPreps page. The NCHSAA specifically asked MaxPreps to remove certain types of data on the basis of promoting good sportsmanship. This means that the rankings you see on your MaxPreps team page or the MaxPreps site ARE NOT the same as the rankings posted on the NCHSAA website and used during seeding. The standings are similar but not identical. There is a MaxPreps FAQ list on the NCHSAA Seeding page if you have more questions.

FAQ Conference results are in. Adjusted MaxPreps Rankings are in. Now what happens?

Here are the behind-the-scenes steps NCHSAA staff and coach representatives take during the seeding phase of the process:



NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 1A
PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:26 AM
Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	1A	W
1	East Surry	22-2-0
32	North Stanly	6-16-0
16	Hayesville	18-8-0
17	Robbinsville	16-9-0
8	Lincoln Charter	15-9-0
25	Polk County	6-17-0
9	Cherokee	21-5-0
24	Blue Ridge Early College	13-12-0
5	Albemarle	25-2-0
28	South Stokes	6-18-0
12	Gray Stone Day	19-6-0
21	Highlands	10-14-0
13	Cherryville	12-13-0
20	Pine Lake Prep	12-12-0
4	Union Academy	24-2-0
29	Andrews	7-18-0
3	Murphy	22-4-0
30	Bradford Prep	11-13-0
14	North Rowan	16-11-0
19	Community School of Davidson	15-11-0
6	Alleghany	15-11-0
27	Elkin	5-18-0
11	Langtree Charter	24-6-0
22	North Stokes	9-15-0
7	Hiwassee Dam	17-10-0
26	Swain County	6-17-0
10	Mount Airy	17-6-0
23	East Wilkes	6-17-0
15	Mitchell	15-10-0
18	Mountain Island Charter	12-10-0
2	Avery County	18-6-0
31	Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy	3-19-0

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 1A

PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:26 AM

Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	1A	E
1	Pamlico County	23-2-0
32	South Stanly	8-17-0
16	River Mill	24-9-0
17	Perquimans	17-8-0
8	Cape Hatteras	9-10-0
25	Pender	8-16-0
9	Riverside	19-7-0
24	Neuse Charter	14-9-0
5	Vance Charter	24-2-0
28	Franklin Academy	11-15-0
12	Northampton County	19-7-0
21	Northside - Pinetown	10-10-0
13	Henderson Collegiate	16-8-0
20	South Davidson	12-12-0
4	Chatham Central	19-3-0
29	Voyager	11-15-0
3	Washington County	16-3-0
30	Granville Central	9-16-0
14	Bishop McGuinness	18-8-0
19	North Moore	14-11-0
6	Weldon	21-0-0
27	Falls Lake	14-15-0
11	Holmes	16-9-0
22	Tarboro	13-12-0
7	Princeton	17-6-0
26	East Columbus	11-14-0
10	Raleigh Charter	18-6-0
23	Gates County	11-13-0
15	Manteo	14-6-0
18	Clover Garden School	16-12-0
2	East Carteret	18-3-0
31	West Columbus	9-16-0

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 2A

PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:26 AM

Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
	2A	W
1	Mountain Heritage	23-0-0
32	East Gaston	12-13-0
16	West Stanly	14-13-0
17	West Davidson	17-8-0
8	Smoky Mountain	14-10-0
25	Franklin	13-13-0
9	Forest Hills	16-9-0
24	North Davidson	13-12-0
5	Newton-Conover	23-4-0
28	North Wilkes	14-12-0
12	West Wilkes	18-7-0
21	Patton	18-8-0
13	Bunker Hill	19-8-0
20	Pisgah	13-12-0
4	East Burke	21-5-0
29	Ashe County	13-11-0
3	Forbush	23-3-0
30	North Surry	12-14-0
14	East Henderson	19-6-0
19	Shelby	17-7-0
6	Wilkes Central	20-6-0
27	West Stokes	14-11-0
11	R-S Central	16-10-0
22	South Rowan	13-12-0
7	East Rutherford	21-3-0
26	Lexington	14-11-0
10	Surry Central	22-5-0
23	Brevard	15-8-0
15	Bandys	16-8-0
18	Madison	16-10-0
2	Salisbury	22-4-0
31	Foard	12-14-0

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 2A

PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:26 AM

Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
2A E		
1	Farmville Central	22-0-0
32	Heide Trask	13-11-0
16	Reidsville	18-7-0
17	Whiteville	15-9-0
8	Vance County	20-6-0
25	Providence Grove	13-12-0
9	Randleman	14-9-0
24	Washington	13-10-0
5	East Duplin	25-1-0
28	Wheatmore	13-14-0
12	Clinton	20-6-0
21	Midway	22-5-0
13	North Lenoir	14-8-0
20	Richlands	17-7-0
4	North Carolina School of Science & Math	29-0-0
29	South Lenoir	13-11-0
3	Kinston	21-5-0
30	North Johnston	14-10-0
14	Roanoke Rapids	18-5-0
19	East Davidson	18-6-0
6	East Bladen	26-1-0
27	J.F. Webb	15-8-0
11	T. W. Andrews	19-6-0
22	North Pitt	17-10-0
7	Croatan	19-2-0
26	First Flight	14-5-0
10	Ledford	20-6-0
23	Goldsboro	14-9-0
15	SouthWest Edgecombe	19-6-0
18	Hertford County	12-13-0
2	Bertie	23-2-0
31	West Bladen	15-10-0

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 3A

PRELIMINARY:: 02/23/19 11:26 AM

Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
3A		W
1	Erwin	26-1-0
32	Southwest Guilford	10-17-0
16	Statesville	20-6-0
17	West Rowan	19-6-0
8	North Iredell	18-5-0
25	North Buncombe	10-14-0
9	Asheboro	20-7-0
24	East Rowan	14-12-0
5	Kings Mountain	21-4-0
28	Roberson	12-13-0
12	North Gaston	21-5-0
21	Northern Guilford	20-7-0
13	Mount Tabor	18-8-0
20	Watauga	16-9-0
4	Cuthbertson	24-3-0
29	Forestview	14-12-0
3	Carson	24-2-0
30	Southern Guilford	10-13-0
14	Cox Mill	17-9-0
19	Southwestern Randolph	19-6-0
6	Central Cabarrus	16-8-0
27	Marvin Ridge	12-11-0
11	Charlotte Catholic	20-7-0
22	Weddington	17-9-0
7	Asheville	21-6-0
26	Monroe	17-8-0
10	Hickory	17-7-0
23	Ashbrook	16-8-0
15	Enka	21-5-0
18	Tuscola	17-8-0
2	Freedom	26-1-0
31	A.C. Reynolds	7-17-0

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 3A
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Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
3A E		
1	E.E. Smith	26-1-0
32	Westover	12-13-0
16	Rocky Mount	18-7-0
17	Harnett Central	18-6-0
8	East Wake	19-5-0
25	Western Alamance	15-10-0
9	Person	20-5-0
24	Southern Alamance	11-13-0
5	Dudley	21-4-0
28	Northwood	14-12-0
12	Terry Sanford	20-5-0
21	Rockingham County	19-7-0
13	Havelock	18-5-0
20	Eastern Guilford	19-8-0
4	Hillside	20-5-0
29	New Hanover	11-11-0
3	Jacksonville	19-4-0
30	Northeast Guilford	8-15-0
14	Clayton	19-5-0
19	Eastern Wayne	19-6-0
6	D.H. Conley	17-6-0
27	Fike	12-11-0
11	Union Pines	18-7-0
22	Franklinton	16-9-0
7	Hunt	20-3-0
26	Williams	12-13-0
10	Topsail	19-7-0
23	Southern Durham	17-9-0
15	Orange	19-6-0
18	Eastern Alamance	16-10-0
2	Southeast Guilford	22-3-0
31	Chapel Hill	11-14-0

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 4A

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Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
4A		W
1	Zebulon B. Vance	25-2-0
32	Bye	
16	Hopewell	17-8-0
17	South Mecklenburg	17-8-0
8	Ragsdale	22-3-0
25	Bye	
9	Mallard Creek	21-5-0
24	Myers Park	12-14-0
5	Ardrey Kell	22-5-0
28	Bye	
12	Providence	20-5-0
21	Berry	12-13-0
13	High Point Central	18-7-0
20	Jack Britt	16-9-0
4	Butler	25-2-0
29	Bye	
3	Northwest Guilford	20-5-0
30	Bye	
14	North Mecklenburg	17-9-0
19	Reagan	14-10-0
6	Pinecrest	24-3-0
27	Bye	
11	Glenn	18-7-0
22	Lake Norman	11-14-0
7	McDowell	17-9-0
26	Bye	
10	Hickory Ridge	22-4-0
23	Olympic	11-11-0
15	Rocky River	18-4-0
18	East Forsyth	16-8-0
2	West Forsyth	22-3-0
31	Bye	

NCHSAA Women's First Round Basketball Playoff: 4A

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Higher seed is the host

Overall Seed	School Name	Game W/L/T
4A		E
1	Wakefield	25-1-0
32	Bye	
16	Rolesville	18-7-0
17	Green Hope	16-10-0
8	Heritage	22-3-0
25	Bye	
9	Leesville Road	21-4-0
24	Garner	12-13-0
5	Cary	17-8-0
28	Bye	
12	Lumberton	20-6-0
21	Middle Creek	12-13-0
13	Apex Friendship	17-6-0
20	Athens Drive	15-11-0
4	Holly Springs	18-7-0
29	Bye	
3	Laney	26-1-0
30	Bye	
14	Millbrook	16-10-0
19	Knightdale	14-11-0
6	South Central	23-3-0
27	Bye	
11	Hoggard	20-7-0
22	Riverside-Durham	11-12-0
7	Pine Forest	21-4-0
26	Bye	
10	Jordan	21-3-0
23	Overhills	12-8-0
15	Cardinal Gibbons	17-8-0
18	Seventy-First	15-8-0
2	Southeast Raleigh	21-5-0
31	Bye	