

2008 Cetrulo/Santelli Relay Tournament - NEW Competition Format

The competition committee proposes to change the Cetrulo/Santelli RELAY tournament competition format from "pool round–direct elimination round" to "preliminary pool round–final pool round" format.

1. In a "preliminary pool round" all participating squads are divided into 6 equal or near equal pools of 6, 7 or 8 squads based on their preliminary seeding. The squads in each pool fence all the other squads in their pool in one 15-touch relay format encounter. After the "preliminary pool round", a single general ranking will be established of all the squads who have taken part in the pools, taking account, successively, of the indices V/B, HS – HR, HS. (V = victories; B = bouts; HS = touches scored; HR = touches received.) The ranking will determine the seeding of the squads for the "final pool round". Other than using improved the initial seeding, this is just what we do now.

2. For the "final pool round" squads ranked 1 to 8 will make pool A, squads ranked 9 to 16 will make pool B, squads ranked 17 to 24 will make pool C and squads ranked 25 to 32 will make pool D. Squads ranked 33 and above will be divided into 2 equal or near equal pools E and F with E being larger if pools are unequal. The squads in each pool fence all the other squads in their pool in one 15-touch relay format encounter. After the "final pool round", six separate rankings will be established for six pools A, B, C, D, E and F, taking account, successively, the indices V/B, HS – HR, HS (where V = victories; B = bouts; HS = touches scored; HR = touches received) acquired in the "final pool round" only. The final tournament standing for the squad is determined by the "final pool round" ranking only. Squads in pool A will be placed 1 to 8 followed by squads in pool B, etc.

Example: In case of 45 squads for the preliminary round field will be divided into 3 pools of 7 and 3 pools of 8 squads. For the final round there will be 4 pools (A, B, C and D) of 8, one pool (E) of 7 and one pool (F) of 6 squads. Squads in the pool A will be ranked 1 to 8, B – 9 to 16, C – 17 to 24, D – 25 to 32, E – 33 to 39 and F – 40 to 45.

3. Final placement of 3-weapon teams will be done as now by adding the final placements of that school's three squads. The team with the lowest total 3-weapon ranking is the over-all champion.

Notes:

1. This format is very sensitive to the initial seeding thus formal seeding rules should be established.
2. In case of absolute equality of indicators between two squads after the preliminary pool, it might be necessary to promote all tied squads to a higher pool.
3. There is a significant increase in a number of bouts for the tournament. For the field of 48 squads Pool/DE format makes 216 15 touch bouts while Pool/Pool format – 336.
4. Firm registration deadline will be necessary because of #1 and #3.

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Initial Seeding

We propose to drop using any information from the preceding year's results to seed the Cetrulo/Santelli relay tournaments because of the high turnover in specific squads.

Proposed Seeding Formula

All 49 squads in each weapon will be seeded by the following characteristics of the three fencers in the starting line-up:

- 1 point awarded for each letter USFA-letter rating, E=1, D=2, C=3, etc., AND
- 1 point awarded for each year of HS fencing experience, excluding their current year. A senior could have as many as 3 points or only 1, if this is their second year of HS fencing.

Therefore, a squad with an unrated freshman, a two-year D-rated fencer, and a 4-year senior A-rated fencer would have $0 + 3 + 8$ for a total of 11 seeding points.

A squad with 3 senior, A-rated fencers would earn 24 points, while a squad starting 3 unrated freshmen would have 0 points. All weapons are seeded separately.

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