

Chapter 9 – Time Scheduling

1. General. Time scheduling is required for major tournaments. Its use in other tournaments is up to the tournament committee.

2. Concept of Scheduling. The concept is simply to make sure that all matches can be played in the time available on the tables that you are using. A thorough understanding of Chapter 2, Tournament Design, is helpful in setting up a time schedule.

3. Procedures. Determine what events you will have, how many entries in each, and the format, e.g. single or double elimination or round robin. Then, considering the number of tables available, calculate the total time required to run all events.

3.a. You must consider the format as well as the number of entries. It will not be possible to use all the tables for all the playing times. As you get to later rounds of single elimination you naturally have fewer players.

3.a.1. Single elimination requires one less match than the number of players. 32 entries will require 31 matches as follows: 1st round of 16 matches, 2nd round of 8 matches, quarter-finals (4 matches), semi's (2), and the final. There will seldom be an exact number (power of 2) 16, 32, 64, etc. You must consider the number of rounds as well as the total number of matches because even with 40 tables you could not run all 31 matches of this event at one time. You must consider at least 5 time slots for the 5 rounds. The time schedule should consider the matches for the largest reasonable number of entries. Experience running similar type tournaments will greatly improve your ability to estimate.

3.a.2. Round robin. Refer to the chart on Page 7–15 to determine the number of matches and rounds required for various numbers of entries. The size of the groups, number of groups, and the format for continuing are all relevant to making the schedule. Group winners can be put into a single elimination draw or another round robin stage. You can advance one or more from each group. Whatever you do, make sure your schedule provides for all required matches.

3.b. Schedule events to minimize the probability of a player being required to play two or more matches at the same time. Remain flexible enough to handle those conflicts that will arise.

3.c. It is helpful to schedule round robin groups to play a whole round or two at the same time. This will minimize conflicts, particularly if you use all tables for the round robin event.

4. Sample Time Schedule. The sample schedule on the next page was developed after a tournament, to prepare an entry blank for another tournament. It schedules events on 8 tables with 20 minutes per match. It was not announced to the players. A printed schedule should not normally be used with less than 30 minutes per match. It is always good to run a time schedule with only the desk crew knowing about it before you try a printed time scheduled tournament.

4.a. The sample includes information needed to make a schedule:

Event	Entries	Format	Rounds	Matches
Championship	28	Elimination	5	27
Class A	33	Elimination	5+	32
Class B	26	Elimination	5	25
Class C	32	RR 4X8	6	55
Novice	24	RR 4X6	7	43
Junior	8	RR 4X2	4	13
Senior	12	Elimination	4	11
Women	5	RR 5	5	10
Doubles	15	Elimination	4	14
				230

4.b. The following abbreviations are used in the table:

CH-1-1	Championship 1st round, 1st match.
A-P-2	Class A, preliminary round, match 2.
C4-2-2	Class C RR group 4, 2nd round, 2d match.
N2-2-1	Novice RR group 2, 2nd round, 1st match.
NS1-1	Novice semi-final round robin, group 1, match 1.
WS-3-2	Women's singles, round 3, match 2.

4.c. The Novice singles is played in 6 groups of 4, followed by semi-final round robin groups of 3 players each, then a final match.

4.d. Class C was scheduled to be played late as a round robin. This accomplished two things: it made good use of tables late in the day, permitting more total matches, and provided more matches for the lower rated players, who normally like to play as much as they can, win or lose.

4.e. The sample schedule accounts for 256 playing times out of a possible 288. That is 89% table usage. That is extremely high table usage; 70%usage is a more reasonable goal. There are some additional open times because we scheduled full rounds for elimination events and 3 preliminary matches for Class A when the entries required only one preliminary match. These blocks should be cleared before play begins to show available slots for late matches.

Sample Time Schedule

Table	9:00	9:20	9:40	10:00	10:20	10:40	11:00	11:20	11:40
1	N1-1-1	N5-1-1	N3-2-1	N1-3-1	N5-3-1	SS-1-1	CH-1-1	CH-1-9	CH-2-1
2	N1-1-2	N5-1-2	N3-2-2	N1-3-2	N5-3-2	SS-1-2	CH-1-2	CH-1-10	CH-2-2
3	N2-1-2	N6-1-1	N4-2-1	N2-3-1	N6-3-1	SS-1-3	CH-1-3	CH-1-11	CH-2-3
4	N2-1-2	N6-1-2	N4-2-2	N2-3-2	N6-3-2	SS-1-4	CH-1-4	CH-1-12	CH-2-4
5	N3-1-1	N1-2-1	N5-2-1	N3-3-1	JR1-1-1	JR1-2-1	CH-1-5	CH-1-13	SS-1-5
6	N3-1-2	N1-2-2	N5-2-2	N3-3-2	JR1-1-2	JR1-2-2	CH-1-6	CH-1-14	SS-1-6
7	N4-1-1	N2-2-1	N6-2-1	N4-3-1	JR2-1-1	JR2-2-1	CH-1-7	CH-1-15	SS-1-7
8	N4-1-2	N2-2-2	N6-2-2	N4-3-2	JR2-1-2	JR2-2-2	CH-1-8	CH-1-16	SS-1-8

Table	12:00	12:20	12:40	1:00	1:20	1:40	2:00	2:20	2:40
1	CH-2-5	SS-2-1	SS-S-1	CH-Q-1	CH-Q-3	CH-S-1	CH-S-1	DBL-S-1	
2	CH-2-6	SS-2-2	SS-S-2	CH-Q-2	CH-Q-4	A-P-1	CH-S-2	CH-S-2	DBL-S-2
3	CH-2-7	SS-2-3	JR1-3-1	DBL-1-1	SS-FINAL	DBL-Q-1	DBL-Q-3	A-1-1	A-1-6
4	CH-2-8	SS-2-4	JR1-3-2	DBL-1-2	N-FINAL	DBL-Q-2	DBL-Q-4	A-1-2	A-1-7
5	NS1-1	NS1-2	NS-1-3	DBL-1-3	JR-FINAL	A-P-2		A-1-3	A-1-8
6	NS2-1	NS2-2	NS-2-3	DBL-1-4	DBL-1-6	WS-1-1	WS-2-1	A-1-4	A-1-9
7	JR2-2-1	JR3-2-1	JR3-2-1	DBL-1-5	DBL-1-7	WS-1-2	WS-2-2	A-1-5	A-1-10
8	JR2-2-2	JR3-2-2	JR3-2-2		DBL-1-8	A-P-3			

Table	3:00	3:20	3:40	4:00	4:20	4:40	5:00	5:20	5:40
1	CH-FINAL		DBL-FINAL	B-1-6	B-1-10	A-Q-1	C1-1-1	A-S-1	C6-1-1
2	WS-3-1	WS-4-1	A-2-5	WS-5-1	B-1-11	A-Q-2	C1-1-2	A-S-2	C6-1-2
3	WS-3-2	WS-4-2	A-2-6	WS-5-2	B-1-12	A-Q-3	C2-1-1	B-2-5	C7-1-1
4	A-1-11	A-1-16	B-1-1	A-2-7	B-1-13	A-Q-4	C2-1-2	B-2-6	C7-1-2
5	A-1-12	A-2-1	B-1-2	A-2-8	B-1-14	B-2-1	C3-1-1	B-2-7	C8-1-1
6	A-1-13	A-2-2	B-1-3	B-1-7	B-1-15	B-2-2	C3-1-2	B-2-8	C8-1-2
7	A-1-14	A-2-3	B-1-4	B-1-8	B-1-16	B-2-3	C4-1-1	C5-1-1	C1-2-1
8	A-1-15	A-2-4	B-1-5	B-1-9		B-2-4	C4-1-2	C5-1-2	C1-2-2

Table	6:00	6:20	6:40	7:00	7:20	7:40	8:00	8:20	8:40
1	A-FINAL	B-Q-1	C6-2-1	C5-3-1	B-FINAL	C-S-1	C-FINAL		
2	C2-2-1	B-Q-2	C6-2-2	C5-3-2	C-Q-1	C-S-2			
3	C2-2-2	B-Q-3	C7-2-1	C6-3-1	C-Q-2				
4	C3-2-1	B-Q-4	C7-2-2	C6-3-2	C-Q-3				
5	C3-2-2	C-2-1	C8-2-1	C7-3-1	C-Q-4				
6	C4-2-1	C5-2-2	C8-2-2	C7-3-2					
7	C4-2-2	C5-2-1	C1-3-1	C8-3-1					
8		C5-2-2	C1-3-2	C8-3-2					