

BRACKETED FORMS

Many of you have probably already heard through your District Sport Director, Regional Director, or simply at your AAU qualifying event that the AAU Taekwondo Program is trying something a little bit different and brand new at our National Championship this year—the introduction of Bracket Forms!

For those of you who have never competed under bracketed forms, it will be a lot like what you have experienced in sparring competition. Competitors or ‘matched’ up throughout the competition, just like sparring, with ‘byes’ awarded in the first round to insure four semi-finalists and two finalists in each division. Athletes will enter the competition area two at a time, be bowed in, and will perform their pattern/form simultaneously. Rather than receiving an individual score from the officials (i.e. 8.7), the officials will then simply choose a ‘winner’ of that individual match. Winners will advance to the next round of competition until the final two athletes have competed against each other.

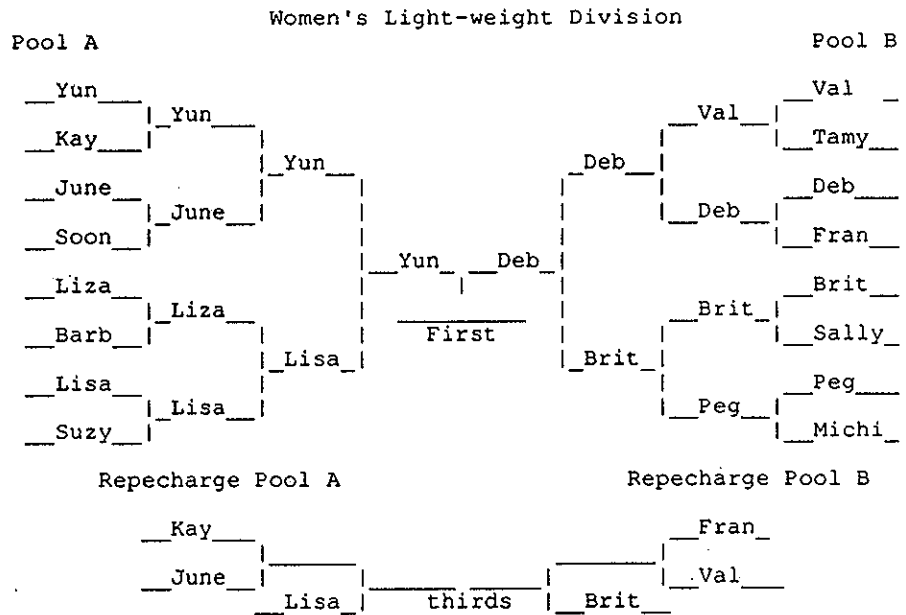
And just like single elimination individual competition, single elimination bracketed forms has one major drawback—the 2nd best athlete in the division might just be eliminated in one of the earlier rounds. To compensate for this, AAU Taekwondo will utilize the Brazilian Repechage System of bracketed forms.

Under this system an athlete (from two separate pools) is not eliminated until the person who beat them is eliminated! The winner of the Championship match obviously takes 1st Place. The loser of the Championship match must then play the winner of the opposite pool’s repechage matches. The winner of that match takes 2nd, the loser takes third and the winner of the other repechage pool will be fourth.

This system should provide for a much more entertaining Patters/Forms competition especially in the larger division. Athletes will have the opportunity to perform their pattern/form more than once and their fans will have the opportunity to cheer them on throughout the division rather than just at the end when the winners would be announced under an individual competition format.

Regardless, following the National Championship all forms/patterns competitors will have the opportunity to VOTE in an online poll to declare which format they would prefer to see at next year’s championship—Individual or Bracketed! Our customer will choose the format for the 2011 event.

will be given a second bout. The bouts go in the order that the players were defeated, with the first beaten playing the second and the winner of that playing the third defeated.



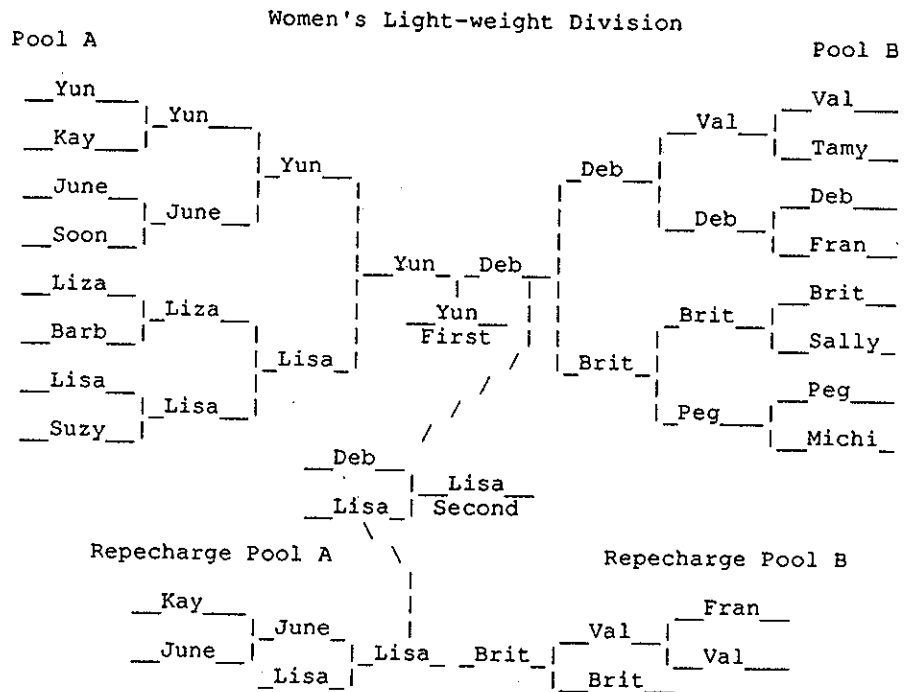
(fig. # 12)

Fig. # 12 is the "repechage" after the two pool winners are decided. The "repechage" refers to the loser's bracket. In Pool A, the players Yun defeated are Kay, June and Lisa. They are dropped down to the repechage brackets so that Kay fights June in the first round of the Pool A repechage. The winner of that match will fight Lisa to decide the Pool A repechage winner and thus one of the third places. On the other side, Deb (the Pool B winner) defeated Fran, Val, and Brit to win Pool B. Fran fights Val and the winner of that fights Brit to have the Pool B repechage winner. The last match would be between Yun and Deb for the division champion.

The Brazilian Repechage

One of the drawbacks of the "Repechage" is that the second best player could come in third. If the two best players are put in the same pool of a division, the highest the loser could place would be third. If, in figure #12 above, Yun wins and Lisa was in fact the second best fighter, Lisa would never have the chance to play Deb to prove she was deserving of the second place.

The "Brazilian Repechage" is a variation that allows for this problem to be settled. The loser of the championship match must play the winner of the opposite repechage. If Yun defeats Deb for the championship, Deb would be required to play the Pool A repechage winner, in this case Lisa. (fig. # 13) If Lisa should defeat Deb then Yun would be first, Lisa second and Deb would be third. The winner of the other Repechage Pool B, in this example Brit, would be fourth (since Brit has already lost to Deb).



(fig. # 13)

The match to decide second and third would obviously be held after the final match for this division. This kind of championship is appropriate when deciding the true second best player is important.