

Round Robin – Beginners Guide

Navigating through the Round Robins

We have an enormous number of new entrants to the series, which is great. Many are unclear as to what happens each Sunday. This document will outline in more detail the instructions, rules, and process for the Sunday Round Robins. You should also read the material sent previously (player instructions, coordinator instructions, etc.)

- For your groups, there are 8 players in a group. Each Sunday your group will be assigned to two courts. If all 8 players are there, then 4 players will be assigned to one court, and 4 will be assigned to the other. I will typically have the specific player court assignments done ahead of time.
- What you need to bring – water. We will provide balls, scoresheets, pens, clipboards, etc.
- SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE 1 - You need to volunteer to be the group coordinator
- Play consists of a First Round of round robin competition, followed by a main semi-finals and finals, and a consolation round.
- **The First Round** consists of a round robin within the assigned court. Games are no-ad scoring, which means when it gets to deuce, the next point wins. Please help the players understand this, as it might be new. No ad scoring is critical to keep things running on time.
 - If there are 4 players on a court, each match should be 4 games. Not the first one to 4 games, but simply 4 games.
 - If there are 3 players on a court, each match should be 6 or 7 games. Given everyone is new, for time considerations, just play 6
 - The parent helpers will record the result of each match conducted on their court. Scoresheets will be provided for each court and will help guide the process.
- Players should change sides after every odd game – 1, 3, 5
- SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE 2 - You need to volunteer to be the group coordinator
- Once all first round matches are complete on each court, the parent helper will add up games won and then list the names in order of games won.
 - In the case of 3 or 4 players on a court, the top two will advance to the main semi-finals, and the bottom one or two will advance to the consolation semi-finals. Note that prizes are given each week for first and second place, as well as consolation winner, so there is something at stake even if you don't advance to the main semi-finals
- **Semi-Final and Final Rounds** – The format for the semi-finals and finals are tiebreakers. The players play until one player has 7 points. It's sudden death – so

there is no requirement to win by two points. The scoresheets provided on the court will guide as to how this works

- Semi-Finals: In the case of 4 players on each court, the Player who wins Court 1 will play the second place finisher from Court 2. Likewise the second place finisher from court 1 will play the winner from court 2.
- Similar logic applies for the consolation winner ,where the 3rd and 4th place finishers from each court play the corresponding opponents from the other courts
- The winners of each semi-final play each other in the finals, etc.....
- **5 or Fewer Players** – If there are 5 players, there are scoresheets that describe the set-up. Basically, the kids play longer matches across the two courts and play one round robin among all the kids, with semis, finals, etc. Again, the scoresheets provided at the courts will guide you through the process.
- If this seems confusing now, it really isn't that bad. Once you see the scoresheet, it will make a lot more sense! And we provide the scoresheets.
- **SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE 3** - You need to volunteer to be the group coordinator. **IT'S NOT THAT HARD!!! I PROMISE.**
- Weekly scoring. Here are how the points break out for each week:

GROUPS OF 9 - 12 PLAYERS:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| 1st | 10 |
| 2nd | 8 |
| 3rd | 7 |
| 4th / 5th / 6th (semi-finalists) | 6 |
| Consolation Winner | 4 |
| Others | 3 |

GROUPS OF 6 - 8 PLAYERS:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1st | 10 |
| 2nd | 8 |
| 3rd | 7 |
| 4th | 6 |
| Consolation Winner | 4 |
| Others | 3 |

GROUPS OF 5 or fewer players

| | |
|-----|----|
| 1st | 10 |
| 2nd | 8 |
| 3rd | 7 |
| 4th | 6 |
| 5th | 5 |

- After 4 weeks, the 2 players who have accumulated the most points will move up a group, and the two who have accumulated the least will drop a group (except group 11 – they wont drop). The three highest weekly scores will count towards the total, as each child can drop their lowest score from the four week series. It is important to note that if you don't let me know you will miss a week, you receive a 0 for that week, and you cannot drop that score.

- One final thing. It is critical that you let me know ahead of time if your child will not be there. I set the match-ups ahead of time, and it causes a lot of hassle and stress for those on the court if you don't show up. Again, this will make more sense when you see how the score sheets are set up and how they work....

Pepperidge Farm FAQs

Q: What do we do when we arrive 15 minutes early?

A: You should check in with the group coordinator. If the group ahead of you is finished, then you can warm up on the courts. If not, you should warm up on the wall. In any case, it is imperative that you arrive in advance of the start time so that the match can finish on time

Q: What if we don't finish?

A: There should be plenty of time to finish. The parent helpers are key to keeping the play moving, keeping players focused, etc. If you are in the semi-final round, you can shorten the tiebreakers to be the first to 5 instead of 7. You must leave the courts when the next group is ready to play.

Q: Who does my child play?

A: Explained above, but the scoresheets will show the children he/she will be playing in the first round. The semis etc. are based on performance in round 1. We will rotate the round robin portion each week, so that everyone plays everyone at some point over the 4 weeks.

Q: How many games does each match consist of?

A: If there are four on a court, then the match is 4 games (NOT FIRST TO FOUR GAMES, JUST FOUR GAMES). If there are 3 on a court, they can play 6 or 7 games.

Q: Explain the drop score?

A: The players cumulative score over a 4 week period will consist of his/her best 3 out of 4 results. If they miss a week without notifying me in advance, they cannot drop that score. If they do notify me, the score of 0 for the week can be dropped.

Q: What do the parents do who help?

A: Parents are critical to the process, especially at this level. The parent helpers stand at the net and help kids keep track of the score, make sure they are on the

correct side when serving, etc., and help with line calls ONLY IF THEY CAN'T RESOLVE IT THEMSELVES. They also record the game score for each match on the provided scoresheets. The goal is for the kids to keep their own score and call their own lines, but at this stage they might need help from time to time. The Group coordinator typically supervises one of the courts, and is responsible for keeping things moving, starting on time, getting the scoresheets on the clipboards, handing out weekly prizes, and getting clipboard ready for the next group. If the coordinator is the last on the court, it is their responsibility to get the bags, balls, etc. back to me. It isn't that hard really, once you've seen it done. Everything is laid out fairly logically.

Q: Being new to this, is there any advise for my child ahead of time?

A: Make sure that your child reads and understands the code of conduct, make sure they wear shorts with pockets to hold the second ball when serving. As far as playing the game, make sure that if they are serving, they call out the score before serving each point. It's good practice and it helps them remember the score anyway. Most importantly have fun! The program is a lot of fun, and they should enjoy themselves.

Q: How do I sign up to be a coordinator?

A: Send me an email. I am being pushy about this, because the parents are critical to the success of this program. **If we don't get volunteers for this, we are going to have a big problem on our hands.** I understand it's difficult to commit when you don't know the process, but it's not a lot of work or time. Coordinator really means that you are just administrating the 2 hour time slot and keeping things on time. Not a lot more than that.