

NLBA Ranking Process for Provincial Championships

- All coaches applying to enter a championship are asked to rank the teams in that particular age group. This information is compiled by the office staff.
- Last year's championship will also be considered taking into consideration the divisions and results of all games.
- Teams in St. John's and Mt. Pearl reside in very large populated schools. Many schools outside these regions have to use athletes in lower grades just to have enough players to compete.
- Teams in St. John's and Mt. Pearl also have many club programs to avail of all year round to produce athletes that are very skilled in basketball.
- At times coaches provide the office with scores from recent invitational events held to make decisions.
- The NLBA are aware there are various skill levels in **ALL Provincial** Championships. If we receive 16 applications for a particular age group we will host an "A" and "B" division. Unfortunately there could be two-three varying skill levels in either division. For example the top 2 teams may be at a higher skill level than teams ranked 4-6 and 4-6 ranked teams may be at a different skill level than those teams ranked 7-8 in that same division. This is a fact of sports and we are unable to provide championships for all skill levels.
- Schools hosting "B" and "C" tournaments at times may be ranked slightly higher than the division they are hosting. If for example coaches ranked a "B" host as 7-8 in the "A" division they may still be permitted to host. However if this B Host is ranked 1-4 in the "A" division the office will have to look for another host and place that team in the "A" division.
- Coaches should keep in mind that ranking teams from out of town is difficult, usually because coaches have not seen them play. Rural NL teams normally operate a program for 2-3 weeks and then move on to another sport. If this is not the case the office are usually aware of those isolated cases either from word of mouth, that team applying to go to a higher division, or from the records from the previous season.
- It is extremely difficult for our office to rank teams at the U11 age group. Needless to say most of those teams are playing for the first time. It is also difficult for the office to rank teams at the U13 age group as many schools have more than one elementary school feeding into the Jr. High School system. Sometimes you could get 2 strong U12 teams feeding the same school.
- The office usually receives an abundance of applications indicating they want to go in the lower division. For example if we have 16 teams applying for "A" and "B" 12-13 applicants want to go in "B" because they know they cannot WIN the banner. Once again the NLBA cannot place 2-3 teams in the "A" and 12-13 in the "B". We have to take the top 8 teams even though we are aware there will be teams not able to compete at a particular level.
- Needless to say, the ranking scheme above is not perfect and provides the office with some challenges at every event. It is extremely time consuming on our staff so we ask all coaches for their support when teams are ranked and the schedule is sent to the teams. There will always be teams placed in divisions where they will lose a few or all of their games. At times they will lose by more than 20 points, hence the reason for the 20-point rule on the score clock. We ask coaches to explain the process to their athletes so they are also aware of the process and the challenges we face when ranking teams.
- CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS IN "A" DIVISION MOVING UP FOLLOWING YEAR: Teams who win a championship in the "A" division (or those with only one division) in the previous year, and apply to move up one age group the following year will be automatically placed in the "A" division of that event. Example: a team that win's grade 7 in 2014 and apply to go to grade 9 in 2015 (keep in mind they are in grade 8 and so will enter the "A" division) will be placed in the "A" division of the grade 9 championships. Teams may make application to the Minor Committee for an exemption of this rule.