

1.3 TOURNAMENTS-KNOCK-OUT, LEAGUE OR ROUND ROBIN AND COMBINATION

Tournament

Competing in physical activities has been the natural tendency of human beings since the beginning of the Stone Age. Then, there were no rules and regulations. 'Might is right' was the main principle in those days. With the passage of time, some rules came into existence, and competitions began to be held in civilised ways. Now, the competitions or tournaments are held according to set rules and regulations. The tournaments are organised at various levels such as zonal, district, state, national and international levels. Olympic games and World Cups are organised in a splendid and magnificent way.



National and international tournaments

These sports competitions or tournaments provide recreation to the spectators, which helps them in reducing stress and tension of their day-to-day life. These tournaments are helpful in the holistic development of participants.

In fact, a tournament is that series of sports in which one team finally wins and rest of the teams lose the matches. Before organising a tournament, it is very essential to prepare a good plan. There are various methods to organise a tournament. To select the best method depends upon various factors such as the number of participating teams, the type of facilities of ground equipment, the number of officials available and the duration of the tournament.

Importance of Tournaments

Tournaments are very important in the field of sports. Players participate in tournaments with a great zeal and zest. The tournaments are significant not only to the players but to the coaches and physical education teachers also. The importance of tournaments is described below.

- 1. Development of Sports Skills:** By participating in tournaments sportsmen develop various skills of sports. The maximum number of participation in tournaments not only develops technical skills of the sports but also tactical skills. Sportspersons acquire efficiency in skills and finally, they show marked improvement in the game.
- 2. Propaganda of Sports:** Tournaments are helpful in publicising the sports. When a tournament of a new sport is organised, the spectators come to know about that sport. Thus, it creates interest in that sport.
- 3. Helpful in the Selection of Players:** In a tournament, good players can be selected easily by observing their performance in the tournament. The players who give good performance, can be selected for upper level tournaments. So, a tournament is an appropriate way to select a good team of players.

4. **Development of National and International Integration:** Sports tournaments are helpful in developing national integration as well as international unity and brotherhood. A tournament is one of the best means of enhancing international peace.
5. **Development of Social Qualities:** Social traits such as tolerance, sympathy, cooperation, group cohesion, brotherhood, discipline, etc., are developed among participants through sports tournaments. Other ethical values such as fair play, justice, honesty, respect for others are also developed through sports tournaments.
6. **Source of Recreation:** Sports tournaments provide ample recreation to the spectators. To maximise recreation, organisers do not hesitate to make a large expenditures. That is why, a large number of people go to watch the Olympic games and World Cups of various games and sports. So, a tournament is a good source of recreation.

Types of Tournaments

There are four types of tournaments, which are mentioned below.

1. Knock-out Tournament
2. League or Round Robin Tournament
3. Combination Tournament
4. Challenge Tournament

1. Knock-out Tournament

Most of the tournaments are organised on the basis of knock-out. In this type of tournament, a team which is once defeated, automatically gets eliminated from the tournament. Only the winning teams continue in the tournament. It means that the defeated team does not get a second opportunity. Opportunities are given to the winning teams or players. For example, if four teams participate in the knock-out tournament, the winning team is declared in the following way.

Teams		
I R	II R	
A]		D - Winner
B]	B - Winner]	
C]		
D]	D - Winner]	

In the 1st round, teams A and B as well as teams C and D play their matches. If team B and team D become the winners of the 1st round, these teams, i.e., teams B and D get opportunity to play in the 2nd round and team A and team C will be eliminated from the tournament. Finally, if team D wins, then it is declared the winner of the tournament.

Advantages of the Knock-out Tournament

1. The knock-out tournaments are less expensive because the team that gets defeated, is eliminated from the competition.
2. The knock-out tournament is helpful in enhancing the standard of sports, because each team tries to give the best performance to avoid defeat.
3. Owing to less number of matches, the tournament gets completed in less time.
4. Minimum number of officials are required in organising such types of tournaments.

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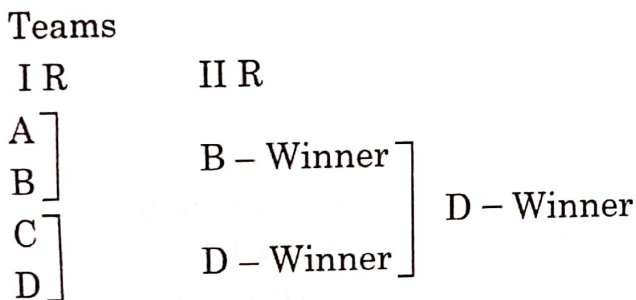
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Disadvantages of Knock-out Tournament

1. There may be many chances of elimination of good teams in the 1st or 2nd round. So, good teams may not reach the final round.
2. There are more chances of weak teams to enter the final round.
3. Spectators may lose interest in the final match if weak teams reach in final round.

2. League or Round Robin Tournament

League tournament is also called 'Round Robin Tournament'. Mr Berger was the first person to imagine the league tournament and owing to that, this tournament is also called '**Berger System**'. According to this tournament, each team plays with every other team once if it is a single league tournament. If it is a double league tournament, each team plays with every other team twice. In these types of tournaments, every team plays with every other team irrespective of victory or defeat. It can be called the best type of tournament because it provides maximum number of opportunities to the teams to display their best performance. In fact, there is no element of chance and the real winner is picked up easily at the end.

Types of League Tournament

There are two types of league tournaments, which are mentioned below.

1. **Single League Tournament:** In the single league tournament, every team plays with every other team once and the number of matches is determined with the help of the following formula.

$$\frac{N(N-1)}{2}$$

Here, 'N' means the number of teams taking part in a tournament. For example, if 7 teams are taking part in a tournament, the number of total matches that will be held is given below.

$$\frac{7(7-1)}{2} = \frac{7(6)}{2} = \frac{42}{2} = 21 \text{ matches.}$$

2. **Double League Tournament:** In the double league tournament, every team plays with the other team twice. The number of matches is determined with the help of following formula.

$$N(N-1)$$

If 9 teams are taking part in a double league tournament, the total number of matches that will be held is given below.

$$N(N-1) = 9(9-1) = 9(8) = 72 \text{ matches.}$$

Advantages of League Tournament: Following are the advantages of a league tournament.

1. Only strong or deserving team gets victory in the tournament.
2. Every team gets maximum opportunities to show its efficiency or performance.

3. Sports and games can be made more popular through league tournament owing to maximum number of matches.
4. In such type of tournament, the sports officials do not face any difficulty while selecting or determining the appropriate players or team. They have enough time to watch the efficiency and performance of a player.
5. A team need not wait to win against the other team for playing a match.
6. Ample number of opportunities are available to the players to improve their performance.
7. The spectators also get good opportunity to watch the games for many days.

Disadvantages of the League Tournament: Following are the disadvantages of the league the tournament.

1. It requires more time.
2. It costs more.
3. The teams coming from far and wide generally face more problems because such tournaments waste their time and money.
4. It requires making more arrangements for sports officials and teams.
5. Moral of most of the teams becomes low due to their defeat again and again. In such situations, these teams are unable to show good performance. That is why, the spectators are devoid of wholesome recreation.

3. Combination Tournaments

Combination tournaments are conducted when the matches are to be played on group basis or zonal basis. As a matter of fact, these tournaments depend on the suitability of the activity, the number of participating teams and the areas and distance from which they come to participate. For example, in case of national-level competition, it becomes difficult for all the state teams to reach the designated place for tournament. To avoid such a type of difficulty, at least four zones can be made and a tournament can be organised at a central place in each zone. After that the winner of each zone can participate at the national level. Depending upon the number of teams in each zone and the availability of time, the tournament can be organised on the basis of knock-out or league and after that at national level the tournament can also be conducted either on knock-out or league basis. Usually, the following combinations of tournaments are used.

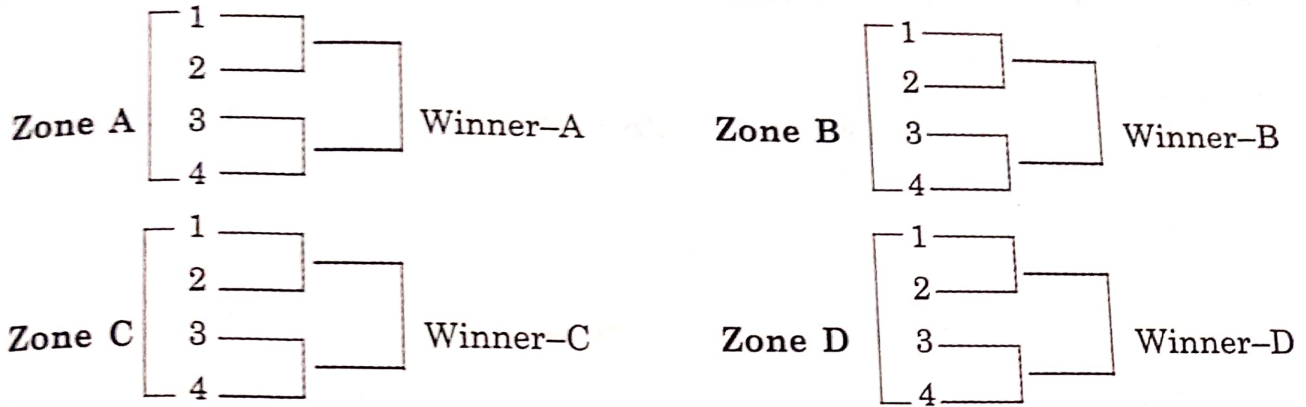
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Knock-out cum Knock-out | 2. League cum League |
| 3. Knock-out cum League | 4. League cum Knock-out |

The description of the above-mentioned combination tournaments is given below.

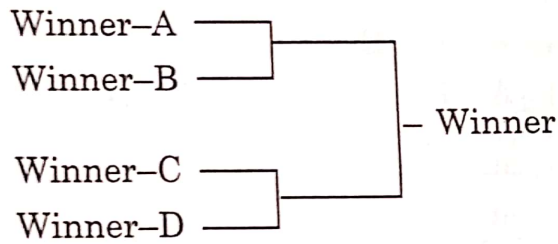
1. Knock-out cum Knock-out

In this type of tournament, the total number of teams are divided into four equal zones. First of all the teams of each zone play on knock-out basis. In this way, a team becomes the winner from each zone. All the four winner teams again play their matches on knock-out basis. The team that wins in the final becomes the winner of the inter-zonal tournament.

Example: Zonal Tournament on Knock-out basis



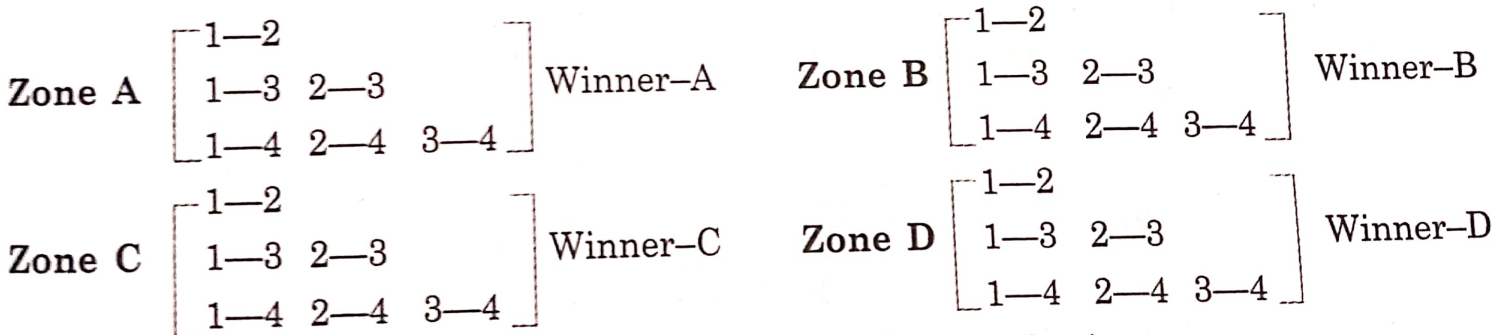
Example: Inter-zonal Tournament on Knock-out basis



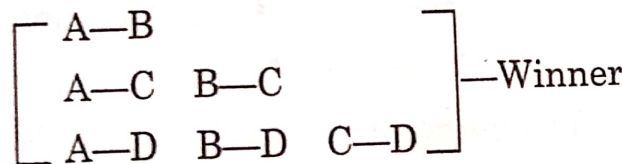
2. League cum League

In this type of tournament, total number of teams are divided into four zones. All the teams play their matches in their respective zones on league basis. One team from each zone becomes the zonal winner. It is called the zonal or group tournament. After that all the zonal winner teams again play the matches on league basis and one team becomes the winner of the inter-zonal or group tournament.

Example: Group or Zonal Tournament on League basis



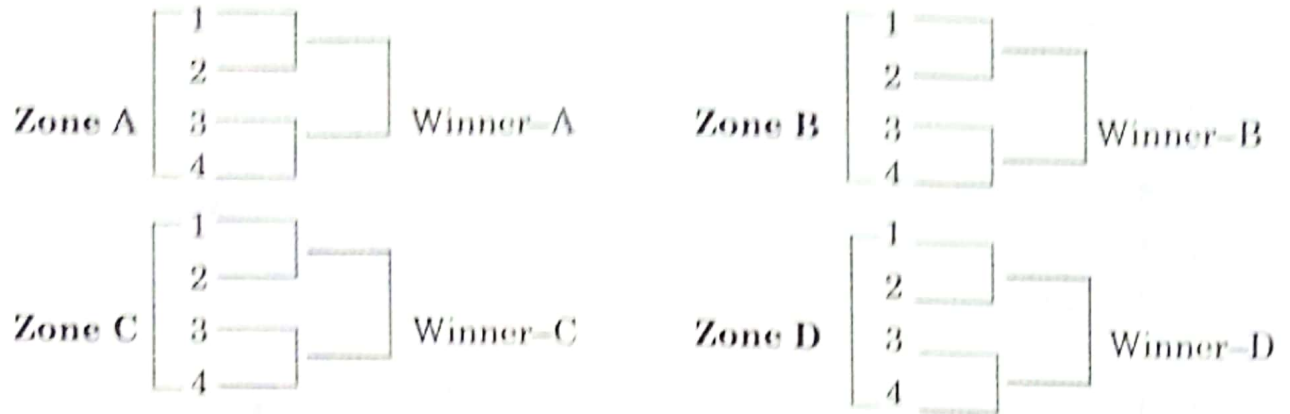
Example: Inter-group or Zonal Tournament on League basis



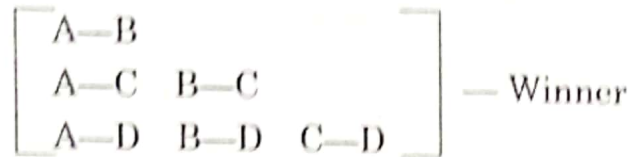
3. Knock-out cum League

All the teams are divided into four zones. First of all the teams play their matches in their respective zones on knock-out basis and one team becomes the winner from each zone. After that, the four winner teams again play their matches on league base and one team becomes the winner of the inter-group or zone tournament.

Example: Group or Zonal Tournament on Knock-out basis



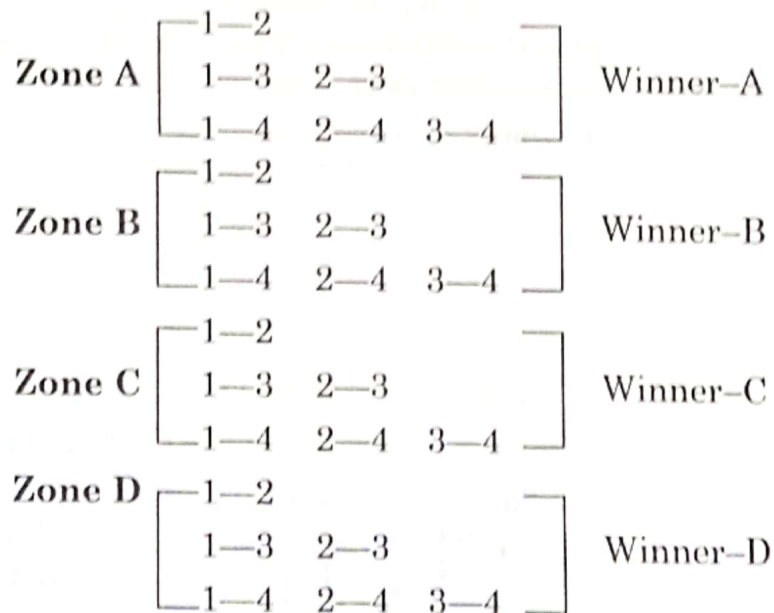
Example: Inter-group or Zonal Tournament on League basis



4. League cum Knock-out Tournament

All the teams are divided into four zones. All the teams play their matches in their respective zones on league basis. One team from each zone or group becomes the winner. It is called the zonal tournament. After that, the four winner teams play their matches on knock-out basis and one team becomes the winner of the inter group or zonal tournament.

Example: Group or Zonal Tournament on League basis



Example: Inter-group or Zonal Tournament on Knock-out basis

