



Guidelines for Scheduling Crossover Games

The Competition Committee has assembled the following guidelines for the Age Directors regarding crossover games during the fall season. Recall the goal of placements is to position a team in the proper division, based on the best information available at the time, to provide for the best level of competition for that team and between the other teams in that division. After the first 3-4 games of the season you may notice teams with lopsided win/loss records and goal differentials within your age group and division. This may indicate the potential to schedule crossover games for that team or teams to verify if the team is placed properly. You may want to schedule crossover games between other teams in a different bracket within the same division (intradivision) or against a team in a higher or lower division (interdivision).

The primary reasons to schedule crossover games is to help determine team & bracket strength, to help teams that are getting beat up every week and to challenge or test the teams that are beating other teams up every week. Do not consider crossovers between boys and girls divisions.

You should wait until week 3 or 4 before you schedule any crossover game. Just because a team gets beat 10-0 the first week doesn't mean they were placed in the wrong division. After week 3 you will get a feel for the strong and weak teams.

If you are scheduling a crossover game for spring placement reasons you will likely pick teams doing well in a lower division with the middle teams of a higher division. It doesn't tell you anything to have a top team in the lower division play the bottom teams in the higher division, or the best team in the higher division. You can also schedule crossovers between brackets if you want to see if the teams are evenly placed. We all know about the bracket of death. Make sure you discuss any proposed crossovers with the other AD in your age group.

If you are scheduling a crossover to get a team that is consistently being beaten up more competitive games, you can consider games between brackets or lower divisions. If you have teams in both brackets getting beaten up, try to have them play each other. It's easier for everyone.

Look for games that are played close to the same time of the day. If you are setting up a crossover between teams scheduled at 9:00 with teams scheduled at 3:00 you may have problems. If you put teams in a position where they will be missing players you are wasting a crossover. Kids have full schedules during the season and many schedule things around their game time. You want to look at the home and away teams. It is best to have the home teams stay the same and just have the away teams go to another field.

If you are setting up crossovers between divisions, please remember that the opponent of the team in the lower division you want to play up will now have to play a team in a higher division. You might be setting them up to get beaten badly so please consider this when looking for crossover games.

You should send an email to all the coaches, at least one week before, about the proposed crossover and have them confirm they are aware of the change. Some may have a valid reason why they can't play the crossover. Some just don't want to play a crossover and that is not a valid reason. Once everyone confirms the crossover send the information to the statistician, make sure you include the game number.

If you need help, or want to have someone review your proposed change, feel free to reach out to the competition committee.