

PBL Season 2

FORMAT & RULES

Format & Rules:

1. In the league stage, each team plays 1 TIE with each of the other teams; and the league stage is followed by 2 Semifinal TIES & 1 Final TIE.
2. Each TIE comprises of 5 matches – Men's Singles 1, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, Mixed Doubles & Men's Singles 2. There is no Women's Doubles match.
3. Each Match will be played as best of 3 Games, with each game being a Race to 11 points. In case both the players are tied at 10-10, then they play on for a lead of 2 points, till a cap of 15 i.e., after 14-14, there will be the deciding point.
4. After each team shares the list of players who will be playing the 5 matches & their choice of trump match, the order of play will be mutually decided by the Technical team of PBL & Star India before each tie (from a neutral perspective) to keep the schedule engaging for viewers and spectators, keeping in mind the following criteria:
 - a. No player plays back to back matches
 - b. In case the same is unavoidable, then there will be a 5 minute extra gap between consecutive matches if the same player is playing them.

Prior to this, both the captains would have shared the names of the players who will be representing them in these 5 matches and which of these 5 matches will be Trump for the respective teams. It is fine that both the teams have placed the Trump on the same match.
5. Each team strategically selects one of the 5 matches that they play in a Tie as their TRUMP MATCH. In a trump match, a victory gives the team a bonus point and a loss gives it a negative point. TRUMP MATCH rules are explained in detail later. Trump matches will be applicable in the league as well as knockout stage (Semifinals and Finals).
6. A team cannot put the same player in the trump matches proposed by them more than twice in the league stage and once in the knock out stage i.e., if team A plays 5 trump matches during the league stage, any player can take part in maximum two of those 5 matches. However, participation of a player in a trump match proposed by the opponent will not be counted in this maximum 2 criterion. This trump count for each player is reset to zero after the league stage. –Similarly, during the knockout stage, a player can participate in the trump match proposed by them only once – for example, if Player X participated in the Trump match for his/her team in the semifinals, he/she cannot be a part of the Trump match for his/her team in the Finals.
7. Scoring: Victory in a normal match gives +1 point, loss gives 0 points. In a Trump Match, the team that has called for the Trump gets +2 points for victory and -1 points for loss. However, the other team will play this match as a normal match and will either get +1 or 0 points for win or loss respectively. If both the teams place the trump on the same match, then for both of them +2 or -1 scoring will apply for win or loss respectively.
8. After the end of the league, the top 4 teams with maximum points will proceed to the Semifinals. There will be a draw taken after the last match of the league stage. Top two teams will be placed at the top and bottom of the draw. The remaining two teams will be drawn by lot to play against these two top teams in the semi-finals.
9. In the case of two teams ending up with the same points after the league stage, preference will be given to the team which has won their head to head Tie. To clarify, winner of a H2H tie will be the team that accumulated maximum points in those 5 matches of the tie (but not the team that has won more matches out of those 5)

10. In case there is a 3-way tie on league points, then the team with more net games won (games won minus games lost) will get preference. If this resolves the 3-way tie, for the remaining two teams, Head to head results will then decide the winner.
11. In case the 3-way tie on league points is still not resolved using net games, then the team with more net points won in all their games (points won – points lost) will get preference. If this resolves the 3-way tie, for the remaining two teams, Head to head results will then decide the winner.
12. If this still does not resolve the tie, then the higher rank will be decided by drawing a lot.
13. If a team is unable to complete all their ties in the league stage, all the results of that team shall be deleted.
14. If a team is unable to complete a match in a tie, the result of that match shall be considered to be 11-0, 11-0 for the purpose of deciding ranking in the pool system. Retiring during a match shall be considered to be not completing the match.
15. Each team shall have a minimum and maximum of 10 players meeting the following criteria:
 - a. Maximum 6 International players
 - b. Exactly 2 Icon Players
 - c. Minimum 3 female players

It doesn't necessarily mean that these 3 criteria are mutually exclusive. To clarify, by having an International WS icon player, the player is counted towards meeting all the 3 criteria.

Further, no player can play more than 2 matches in a tie. The two men's singles will have different players participating from each team i.e., same men's player cannot play both the men's singles – however in any given tie, the rank of the MS2 player should not be greater than that of MS1 player. The auction for the Icon players will be done separately, as specified in the Auction format.

16. Each player will be allowed 1 unsuccessful challenge per Match – the successful challenges are not counted. In addition, each team is allowed 1 challenge (successful or unsuccessful) across the course of the 5 matches in a tie.
17. Break pattern: There will be a maximum of 75 seconds break when the lead scorer reaches 6 points per game, there will be a maximum of 75 seconds break between games and there will be a maximum of 5 minute break between matches (from end of match-point of the previous match to start of the first point of the next match).
18. The points won by each team after the league stage will not be carried over to the knockout stage.

Annexure - A

TRUMP MATCH RULES

1. Each team strategically selects one of the 5 matches that they play in a Tie as their TRUMP MATCH. In a trump match, a victory gives the team a bonus point and a loss gives it a negative point.
2. Both teams will specify which of the 5 matches will be their respective Trump Match along with the list of players that they share, at least one hour in before the start of the Tie with the Referee. It is fine that both the teams can have their Trumps in the same match.
3. Scoring: A win in a normal match gives +1 point, loss gives 0 points. In a Trump Match, the team that has called for the Trump gets +2 points for win and -1 points for loss. However, the other team will play this match as a normal match and will either get +1 or 0 points for win or loss respectively. If both the teams place the trump on the same match, then for both of them +2 or -1 scoring will apply for win or loss respectively.