

A “Dummies Guide”:

How to complete the Sparring Tree

Points to remember:

- A. Once you start the second round all the spaces in the column should be filled in the sparring tree.
- B. Students who are listed first on your roster get byes. If you do not have a roster in your envelope, determine the byes randomly.
- C. **Try to avoid students from the same school sparring each other in the 1st round and the “bye” round.**

Getting the “Sparring Tree” started

1. Check the printed roster sheet (inside division envelope) and take a roll call. **Identify the students by the number they are given on the roster and the school abbreviation.** Do not write each individual’s name on the sparring tree; this takes too long. Identify the students by the number assigned to them! **Only when you get to the last 4 competitors will you write the students names and schools they represent.**
2. Count the number of competitors.
3. Seat the students around the ring according to the roster sheet (you can use the index cards in the ring box). Write this number on the competitors wrist band with the Sharpie in your ring box.
4. Refer to the “Bye Sheet” to find the number of byes. Students listed first on the roster sheet get priority bye consideration. If you did not get a roster sheet, simply determine the byes by whoever has the lowest number.
5. List the byes in the appropriate column in the “Sparring Tree” sheet (**32, Sweet 16, Final 8, Final 4, Semis**) and start listing the “byes” in every space **from the top down** on the sparring tree. As best you can, please avoid pairing students from the same school in the bye round. Remember: In large divisions, you only need to identify the students by the number and the school abbreviation.
6. The remaining competitors will be listed in the immediate column to the left **from the bottom up** to establish your “first round” matches. **AS BEST YOU CAN, PLEASE AVOID PAIRING STUDENTS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL IN THE FIRST ROUND.**