

How Three-Ways Work

Sometimes the scheduling requires **three-way** matches that occupy two rounds. In these matches Team A's North-South plays team B's East-West, team B's North-South plays team C's East-West, and Team C's North-South plays Team A's East-West in the first round. In the second round Team A's North-South plays team C's East-West (using the same boards as when Team C's North-South played Team A's East-West in the first round), team B's North-South plays team A's East-West, and Team C's North-South plays Team B's East-West.

You can see why this works by looking at it from the perspective of the boards.

| Boards | 1st Half | | 2nd Half | |
|--------|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| | N-S | E-W | N-S | E-W |
| 1-6 | A | В | В | A |
| 7-12 | В | C | C | В |
| 13-18 | С | A | A | C |

In the first half boards 1-6 are played by team A (N-S) and B (E-W). At the conclusion of that half the latter brings the boards to their teammates (B N-S) who play them against team A's East-West team in the second half. After delivering the boards B's East-West team moves to the table occupied by C's North-South team to play boards 7-12.

Confused? Here is the same chart from the perspective of the North-South teams:

| N-S | 1st Half | | 2nd Half | |
|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| | Board | E-W | Board | E-W |
| A | 1-6 | В | 13-18 | C |
| В | 7-12 | С | 1-6 | A |
| С | 13-18 | A | 7-12 | В |

Note that A's North-South plays boards 1-6 and 13-18, which are the same boards played by A's East-West. In addition both pairs played 1-6 against team B and 13-18 against team C.

At the end of the **second match** the East-West teams return to the North-South team's table and compares scores as usual. The winner and margin is determined for each match. The captain of the winning team then goes to the table(s) of the losing team(s) for confirmation as usual. The results are then reported to the directors.