

How to Create a Round-Robin Schedule

1. With this system, you can create a round-robin schedule for any number of teams. To make things easier here, let's say you have 9 teams in your league. You must first add a Bye team to your league to bring the total number of teams up to an even number. So, now you have 10 teams in your league. The Bye is inconsequential because all the teams in the league will "play" the Bye.
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2. In order to play every team once, a 10-team league requires 9 weeks of league play, assuming your league plays once a week. Start by creating the "Home vs. Away" round-robin schedule bracket shown below. In order for this system to work, you must place team #1 in the lower left corner and continue with the rest of the teams in a clockwise direction as shown.

Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5		Week 6		Week 7		Week 8		Week 9	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6																
4	7																
3	8																
2	9																
1	10																

3. In the next "Home vs. Away" pairing box, rotate teams #1 - #9 counter-clockwise, but leave team #10 anchored in its place. Anchoring the last team in place is what makes the round-robin schedule work.

Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5		Week 6		Week 7		Week 8		Week 9	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6	6	7														
4	7	5	8														
3	8	4	9														
2	9	3	1														
1	10	2	10														

4. Continue rotating teams #1 - #9 for each successive "Home vs. Away" pairing box, until all are filled out.

Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5		Week 6		Week 7		Week 8		Week 9	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5
4	7	5	8	6	9	7	1	8	2	9	3	1	4	2	5	3	6
3	8	4	9	5	1	6	2	7	3	8	4	9	5	1	6	2	7
2	9	3	1	4	2	5	3	6	4	7	5	8	6	9	7	1	8
1	10	2	10	3	10	4	10	5	10	6	10	7	10	8	10	9	10

5. The weekly pairing are complete, but the Home and Away status for each team is awful. As you can see above, team #1 is Home the first week, Away the next four weeks, then Home the following four weeks. In a perfect world, each team should be Home one week, and Away the next. We'll fix this now, as best we can.

6. Break the 9-week schedule chain into two shorter chains (5 and 4), and insert blank columns between every week, as shown below. Your actual schedule will probably not have 9 weeks. So, no matter what the number of weeks in your schedule, break the chain in half with the one extra week on the top row. (ie. 15 weeks = 8 and 7; 21 weeks = 11 and 10.)

Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	1
4	7	5	8	6	9	7	1	8	2
3	8	4	9	5	1	6	2	7	3
2	9	3	1	4	2	5	3	6	4
1	10	2	10	3	10	4	10	5	10

Week 6		Week 7		Week 8		Week 9	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5
9	3	1	4	2	5	3	6
8	4	9	5	1	6	2	7
7	5	8	6	9	7	1	8
6	10	7	10	8	10	9	10

7. Move all of the weeks in the bottom row up and to the right, so they fit between the weeks in the upper row.

Week 1		Week 6		Week 2		Week 7		Week 3		Week 8		Week 4		Week 9		Week 5	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6	1	2	6	7	2	3	7	8	3	4	8	9	4	5	9	1
4	7	9	3	5	8	1	4	6	9	2	5	7	1	3	6	8	2
3	8	8	4	4	9	9	5	5	1	1	6	6	2	2	7	7	3
2	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	4	2	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	4
1	10	6	10	2	10	7	10	3	10	8	10	4	10	9	10	5	10

8. Finally, within every other week flip-flop the Home and Away status for the team #10 match pairing, and re-label the "Week" headings with actual dates.

Jun 11		Jun 18		Jun 25		Jul 02		Jul 09		Jul 16		Jul 23		Jul 30		Aug 06	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6	1	2	6	7	2	3	7	8	3	4	8	9	4	5	9	1
4	7	9	3	5	8	1	4	6	9	2	5	7	1	3	6	8	2
3	8	8	4	4	9	9	5	5	1	1	6	6	2	2	7	7	3
2	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	4	2	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	4
1	10	10	6	2	10	10	7	3	10	10	8	4	10	10	9	5	10

9. The round-robin schedule is now as good as it can be (No, it's not perfect, but then again nothing is!). Half of the teams are Home 5 times and Away 4 times, and the other half of the teams are Home 4 times and Away 5 times. Also, all teams alternate Home and Away every other week, with the exception of the oddity surrounding team #10. If a team plays team #10 at Home, they will be at Home again the following week. If the team plays team #10 Away, they will be Away again the following week.

10. Now, simply assign a team to a number by entering their information into the schedule as show. If there are multiple teams playing out of the same location, you must take care not to have conflicting matches where too many teams are playing at any given location at once. In order to eliminate such conflicts, place the teams from the same location in “balanced” spots on the schedule. The balanced spots are always half the number of teams apart. In our example, there are 10 teams, so the balanced spots are 5 teams apart. Therefore, you can place teams from the same location at 1 and 6, or 2 and 7, or 3 and 8, etc. If you look on the schedule you will see that these team pairs are never both home at the same time, so there won't be conflicting matches.

Jun 11		Jun 18		Jun 25		Jul 02		Jul 09		Jul 16		Jul 23		Jul 30		Aug 06	
H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
5	6	1	2	6	7	2	3	7	8	3	4	8	9	4	5	9	1
4	7	9	3	5	8	1	4	6	9	2	5	7	1	3	6	8	2
3	8	8	4	4	9	9	5	5	1	1	6	6	2	2	7	7	3
2	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	4	2	9	7	5	3	1	8	6	4
1	10	10	6	2	10	10	7	3	10	10	8	4	10	10	9	5	10

Team #	Team Name	Home Location	Captain's Name and Number
1	The Misfits	Mr. Smith's	
2	Half and Half	Downtown Tavern	
3	The Destroyers	Sporty's	
4	Balls and Shaft	The Old Place	
5	Who Goes There?	The New Place	
6	Kitten's Claws	Mr. Smith's	
7	Sam's Bar #1	Sam's Bar	
8	Flying High	The Airport Lounge	
9	Guinness Records	Irish Pub	
10	BYE		