

AN EXPLANATION OF SWISS PERFECT TIE-BREAKING METHODS

USED TO DECIDE PLACINGS FOR PLAYERS ON EQUAL POINTS:

Buchholz

This is the sum of opponents' scores. The idea is that the same score is more valuable if achieved against players with better performances in a given tournament. Looks like an ideal tie-breaking method and has been used since the Swiss system was invented. However it has some weaknesses which are addressed by other methods (see Median-Buchholz, Progress).

Median-Buchholz

Same as above but discarding the highest and the lowest opposition's scores. Its idea is to eliminate distortions in Buchholz values caused by taking into account games against run-away winners and bottom placed players.

Progress

Calculated by adding points from a progress table eg if your scores were: Win, Loss, Win, Draw then your progressive scores are 1, 1, 2, 2.5 and your Progress tie-break value is 6.5. This is an attempt to put a higher value on scores which were achieved by scoring better in the initial rounds than by finishing from behind. It is common knowledge that the latter is usually much easier to achieve.