



HSBC SWS - Competition Format 2011 onwards

A review of the Series format has been conducted to consider ways that would provide the participating teams with a more transparent and competitive system throughout the Series. It is important that the format of the competition is balanced and reflects consistently good performances throughout the Series.

The following areas show the proposed new format.

A. Seeding Process

For the process to be fair, current and consistent and to provide variability, a new random draw process is proposed whereby the Cup winners and runners-up are placed in Pools A and B respectively, the next six best placed teams are drawn and placed into pools accordingly, the next four drawn and placed, followed by the last four. For the commencement of the Series in Australia, the Final Standings from last season will populate each Band and the format would be as below.

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
New Zealand (Seed 1)	South Africa (Seed 2)	Band 2 Draw	Band 2 Draw
Band 2 Draw	Band 2 Draw	Band 2 Draw	Band 2 Draw
Band 3 Draw	Band 3 Draw	Band 3 Draw	Band 3 Draw
Band 4 Draw	Band 4 Draw	Band 4 Draw	Band 4 Draw

- Band 2: England, Fiji, Samoa, Australia, Wales, and Argentina
- Band 3: Kenya, France, Scotland, and United States
- Band 4: Invited Teams

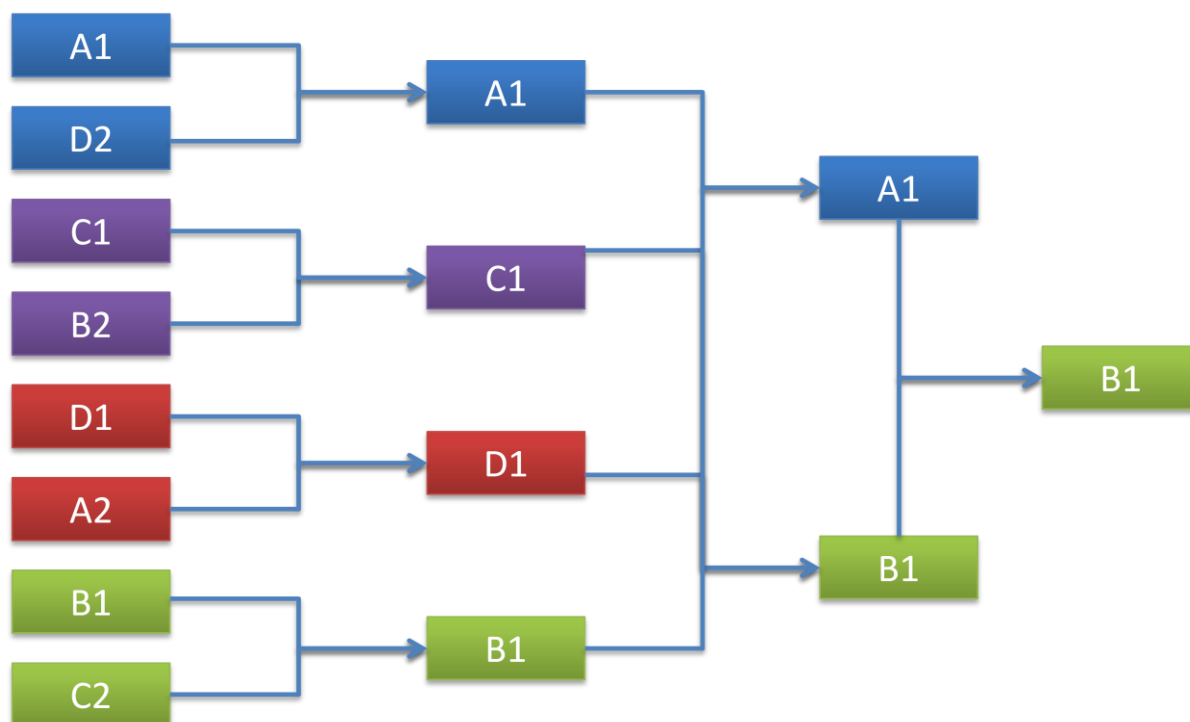
At each tournament thereafter, prior to the commencement of the Cup Final, the draw will be carried out for the following tournament. There will be a standard schedule layout used across all tournaments with time slots included specific to each tournament.

This will reflect each event result and not overall Series standings

B. Pool Round Process into Knockouts

Used in conjunction with the random draw and the re-seeding after each tournament a process that is fair, variable and simple is shown below. This provides teams the advantages of seeding throughout. It also keeps teams that are in the same pool apart and the Top 2 teams from meeting until the final provided they play to form. If they do not play to form then they will only meet in the semi-final, not in the quarter-final as in the previous process.

Proposed Process to commence 2011/2012 :



Example 1 : Results after pool rounds with the 2 Top Seeds winning their pools:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
New Zealand	South Africa	Fiji	England
Samoa	Argentina	Wales	Australia

New Zealand v Australia → New Zealand → New Zealand
 Fiji v Argentina → Argentina

England v Samoa → England → South Africa
 South Africa v Wales → South Africa

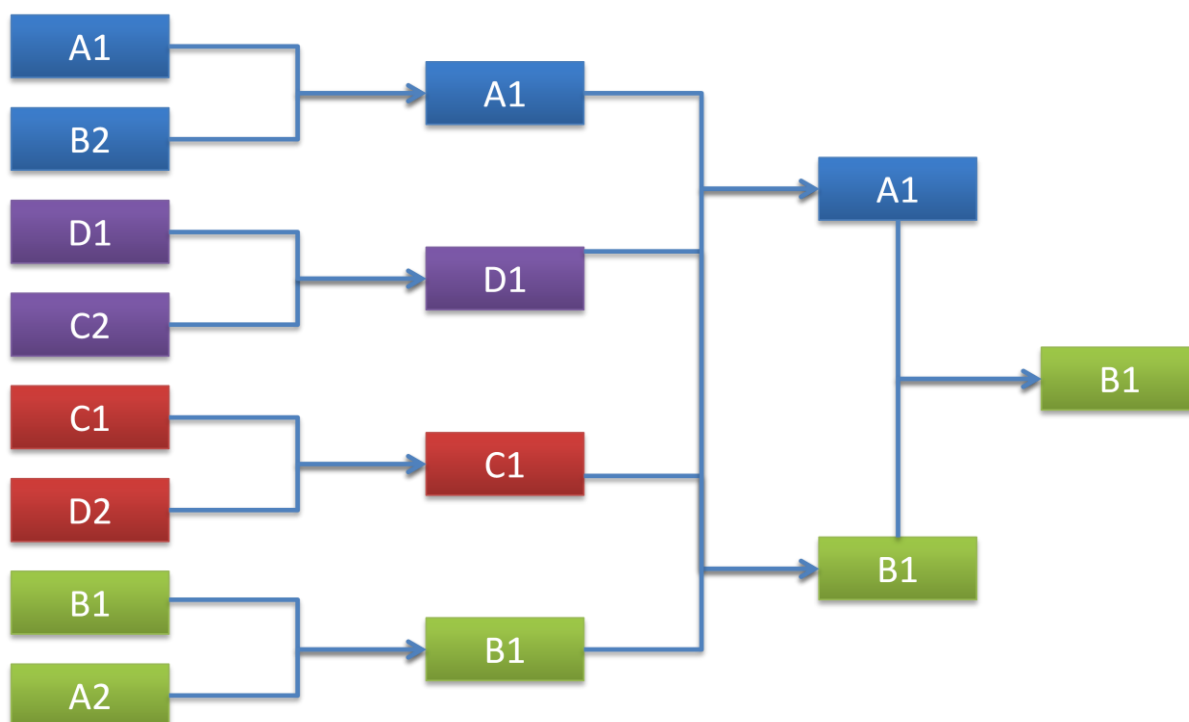
Example 2 : Results after pool rounds with one Top Seed placed 2nd in the pool:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Samoa	South Africa	Fiji	England
New Zealand	Argentina	Wales	Australia

Samoa v Australia → Australia → Australia
 Fiji v Argentina → Fiji

England v New Zealand → New Zealand → New Zealand
 South Africa v Wales → South Africa

Process used up until 2011 for comparison :



Results after pool rounds with the 2 Top Seeds winning their pools:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
New Zealand	South Africa	Fiji	England
Samoa	Argentina	Wales	Australia

New Zealand v Argentina → New Zealand → New Zealand
 England v Wales → England
 Fiji v Australia → Fiji → South Africa
 South Africa v Samoa → South Africa

Results after pool rounds with one Top Seed placed 2nd in the pool:

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
Samoa	South Africa	Fiji	England
New Zealand	Argentina	Wales	Australia

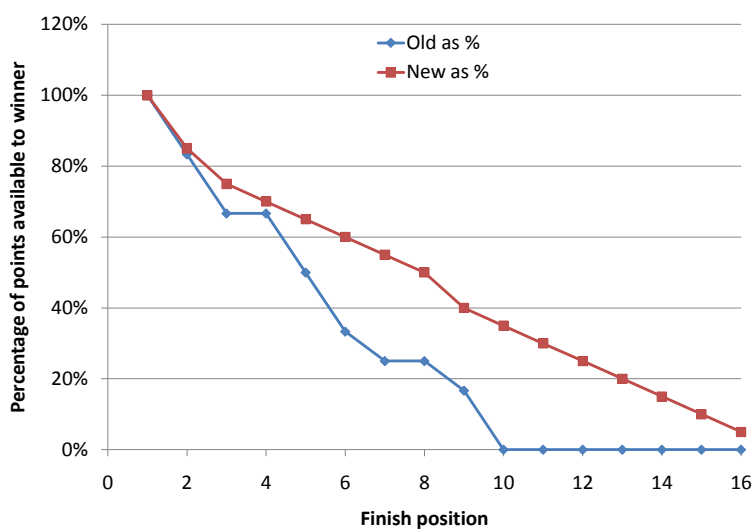
Samoa v Argentina → Samoa → Samoa
 England v Wales → England
 Fiji v Australia → Fiji → South Africa
 South Africa v New Zealand → South Africa

C. Series Points

All teams should receive points whether they win or lose thereby providing the ability to rank all participating teams. An additional match to determine the 3rd and 4th positions will be played. The teams that reach the semi finals in the Plate, Bowl and Shield will each receive the same point for that specific grouping. This system gives a more gradual spread in points. All tournaments need to carry the same points for the Series for consistency.

	Old	New	Additional Match
Cup Winner	24	22	
Cup Finalist	20	19	
Cup Semi Finalist	16	17	3 rd place
Cup Semi Finalist	16	15	4 th place
Plate Winner	12	13	
Plate Finalist	8	12	
Plate Semi-Finalist	6	10	
Plate Semi-Finalist	6	10	
Bowl Winner	4	8	
Bowl Finalist	0	7	
Bowl Semi-Finalist	0	5	
Bowl Semi-Finalist	0	5	
Shield Winner	0	3	
Shield Finalist	0	2	
Shield Semi-Finalist	0	1	
Shield Semi-Finalist	0	1	

Points comparison Old vs New proposed



The graph above shows the relative allocation of points as a percentage of points given to the tournament winner. It shows how the new point allocation (red line) spreads the points out more evenly, ensuring that teams finishing further down in each tournament remain relatively closer to the tournament winners.