

Bye (sports)

A **bye** in [sports](#) and other [competitive activities](#) can have two different meanings. Both mean that a [participant](#) in a competition is not required to [compete](#) while most of the other participants are. Its main use is in [tournament](#) competitions. In single-[elimination](#) tournaments, when there are an [odd number](#) of participants, a bye allows one or more to play in a later round. Other types of eliminator tournaments may also include a bye for others reasons. An [example](#) would be as a reward for the best [ranked](#) team(s).

In [round-robin](#) tournaments where there are an odd number of competitors, usually one gets a bye in each round. However, over the whole tournament, each team plays the same number of games.

Similar to the round-robin context, in [leagues](#) where most teams play on the same days during regular-season play, a team that does not play on a given day is said to be on bye. In sports that are played weekly, especially [gridiron football](#), a team that does not play at all during a given week is said to be on its **bye week**.^[1] For [example](#), during the regular [football Season](#) in the [NFL](#), each team gets a week off (bye week) during the [regular season](#).^[2]

References

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1. [↑] ["Fantasy Football Terms You Need to Know"](#). Retrieved 22 October 2012.
2. [↑] Wayne L. Winston, *Mathletics: How Gamblers, Managers, and Sports Enthusiasts Use Mathematics in Baseball, Basketball, and Football* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), p. 323

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