**COMMON TOURNAMENT FORMATS**

Whenever a tournament is organized there are various formats used to structure fair competition.

The common tournament formats include single elimination, double elimination, Round robin, The Swiss System, Group and Knockout stage.

**SINGLE ELIMIMNATOIN:**

In this format the players are eliminated after a single loss. All the competitors have only one chance. The losers are eliminated and the winners advance to the next round until only one remains-the tournament champion. This format is suitable if the entries are more and the time is short. This makes it a fast-paced tournament which is ideal for short events.

**DOUBLE ELIMINATION:**

Double elimination gives a second chance to the competitors. After one loss they are moved to the loser’s bracket (still in the race to reach finals) and are eliminated after the second loss. This adds complexity to the tournament and keeps the competition balanced. This format is good option if the number of the locations are limited.

**ROUND ROBIN:**

In round robin format the schedule is already fixed. All the teams already know who they play and what time they play them. This gives them the advantage to prepare well before hand and make their strategies and plans. All the teams have to face each other at least once in the competition. This requires more rounds and large tournament but it has fairness and balance as each team will face every other team participating in the competition.

**THE SWISS SYSTEM:**

In this system the competitors having similar record in each round are paired to face each other. In each round of competition matches are determined such that each competitor competes against the one with similar score. This ensures high quality and tight matches increasing the charm of the tournament. The players or teams compete against others if comparable skill, which helps to maintain a competitive balance throughout the tournament.

**LADDER:**

In this type of format players are listed as if on the rungs of the ladder, according to their ability and ranking. The best player is at the top of the ladder. Competition starts with a challenge and a player is allowed to challenge the players who are above him on the ladder. If the lower-placed player wins the match then the two players exchange their places. If the challenged players win, they are allowed to challenge the players above them before they must accept another challenge. This sort of competition is common in tennis and squash circles.

**GROUP AND KNOCKOUT STAGE:**

This system is a combination where competitors or teams first group against each other in the round robin phase. The top performers of this phase are then grouped to play knockout stage. The knock out stage is semifinals or finals. The table topers of the respective groups compete in the semifinal and the winners of the semifinal then compete in the final. This type of format is mostly used in the ICC cricket world cups and FIFA world cups.