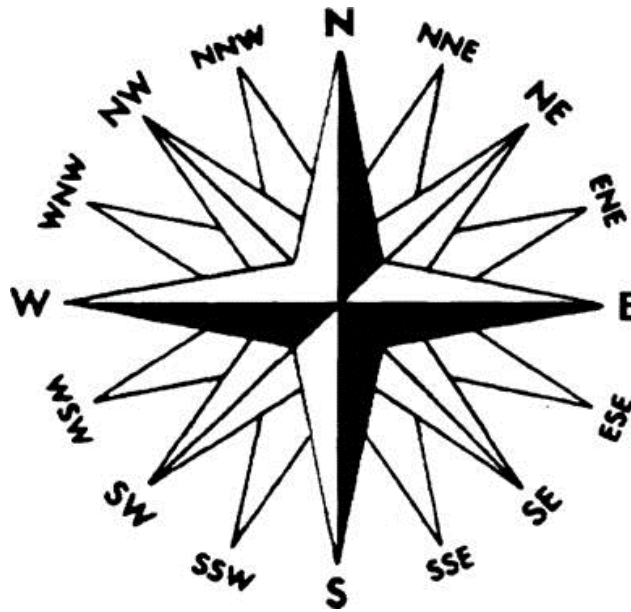


What is a Compass Bracket in a Tournament?

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A compass bracket can be more fun than other tournament brackets, primarily because there are no eliminations, so every team gets to play in every round of the tournament. Instead of being eliminated, after each round, the losing teams move to new brackets corresponding to new compass directions and play their next matches against teams that have records identical to their own.

Figure 1 – A Compass with 16 Directions



Note. Image from <https://scoutingeverywhere.blogspot.com>

Here is how a compass bracket with 16 teams works:

- Every team starts in the East bracket in round 1.
- The teams that lose in round 1 move 8 brackets counterclockwise. That means they move from the East (E) bracket to the West (W) bracket, which is noted as (E → W).
- The teams that lose in round 2 move 4 brackets counterclockwise: (E → N), (W → S)
- The teams that lose in round 3 move 2 brackets counterclockwise: (E → NE), (N → NW), (W → SW), (S → SE)
- The teams that lose in round 4 move 1 bracket counterclockwise: (E → ENE), (NE → NNE), ..., (S → SSE), (SE → ESE)

So, after each round, each team that won stays in their current bracket, while each team that lost is demoted by moving counterclockwise a certain number of steps to a new bracket. The size of the demotion is larger for an early round loss and smaller for a later round loss. Note that a compass bracket with 8 teams works the same, but with only three rounds of play instead of four.

As shown in Table 1, the finalized bracket will rank the teams. The top-ranked team will be the sole remaining team in the E (East) bracket which will have a record of four wins, and the bottom-ranked team will be the team that finished in the ESE bracket with a record of four losses. Note that this ranking scheme values early wins much more than later wins. If prize money is awarded, it can be distributed to the top 9 teams using a non-linear scale.

Table 1 – How Teams are Ranked and the Paths to Victory

Final Rank	Final Bracket	Win/Loss Record	Bracket Path	Prize Money	Medals
1	E	Win, Win, Win, Win	E, E, E, E	25%	Gold
2	ENE	Win, Win, Win, Loss	E, E, E, E	18%	Silver
3	NE	Win, Win, Loss, Win	E, E, E, NE	15%	Bronze
4	NNE	Win, Win, Loss, Loss	E, E, E, NE	12%	
5	N	Win, Loss, Win, Win	E, E, N, N	10%	
6	NNW	Win, Loss, Win, Loss	E, E, N, N	8%	
7	NW	Win, Loss, Loss, Win	E, E, N, NW	6%	
8	WNW	Win, Loss, Loss, Loss	E, E, N, NW	4%	
9	W	Loss, Win, Win, Win	E, W, W, W	2%	
10	WSW	Loss, Win, Win, Loss	E, W, W, W		
11	SW	Loss, Win, Loss, Win	E, W, W, SW		
12	SSW	Loss, Win, Loss, Loss	E, W, W, SW		
13	S	Loss, Loss, Win, Win	E, W, S, S		
14	SSE	Loss, Loss, Win, Loss	E, W, S, S		
15	SE	Loss, Loss, Loss, Win	E, W, S, SE		
16	ESE	Loss, Loss, Loss, Loss	E, W, S, SE		

A demonstration of a 16-team compass bracket in GPN is shown in Figure 2 to Figure 6. In this example, the gold medal went to Dan & Debra (E winner in round 4), the silver medal went to Nancy & Nick (E loser in round 4), and the bronze medal went to Clara & Chuck (NE winner in round 4).

Figure 2 – Every Team Starts in the East Bracket in Round 1

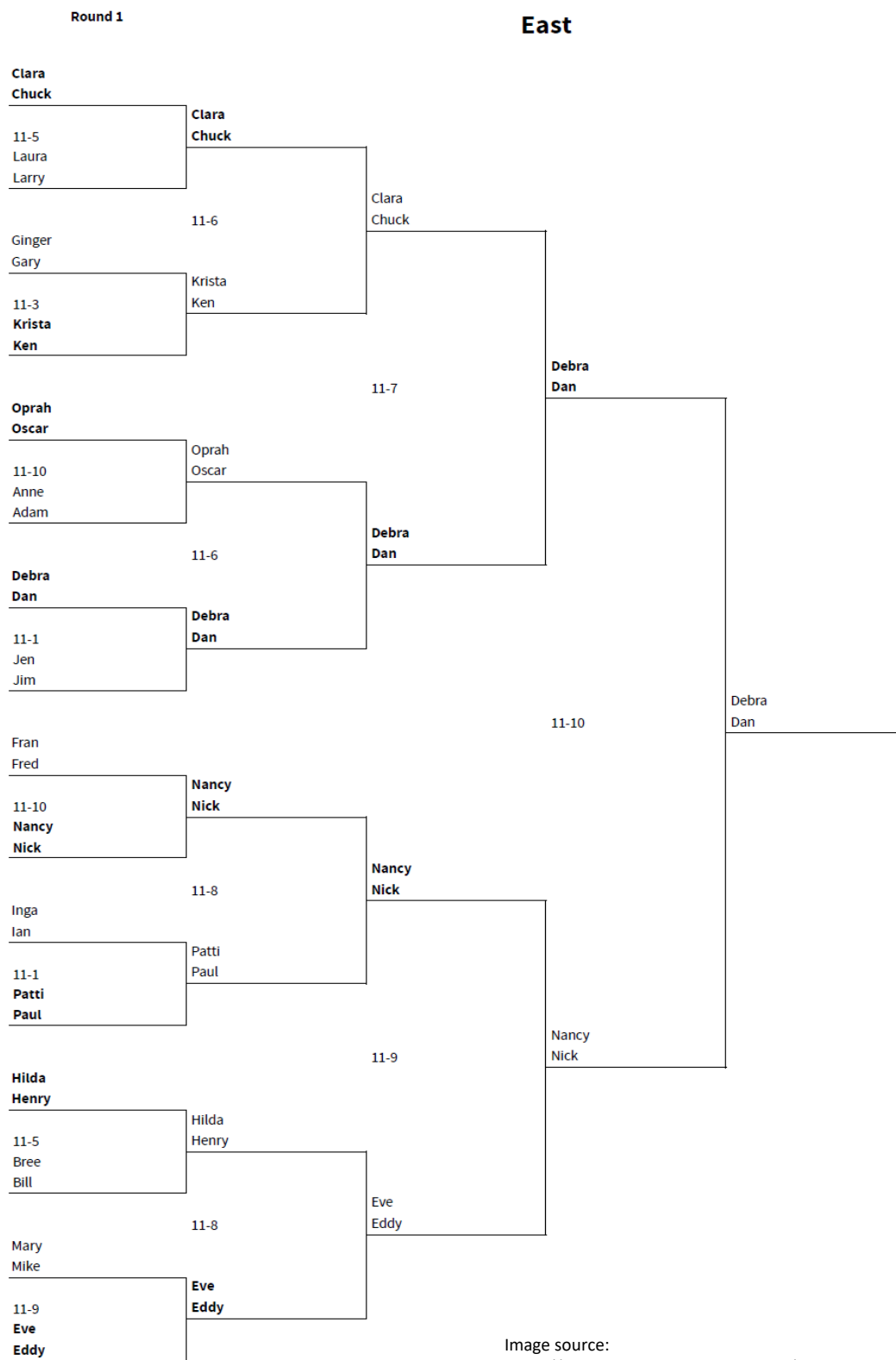


Image source:
<https://www.globalpickleball.network/>

Figure 3 – The Round 1 Losers from the East Bracket Move to the West Bracket

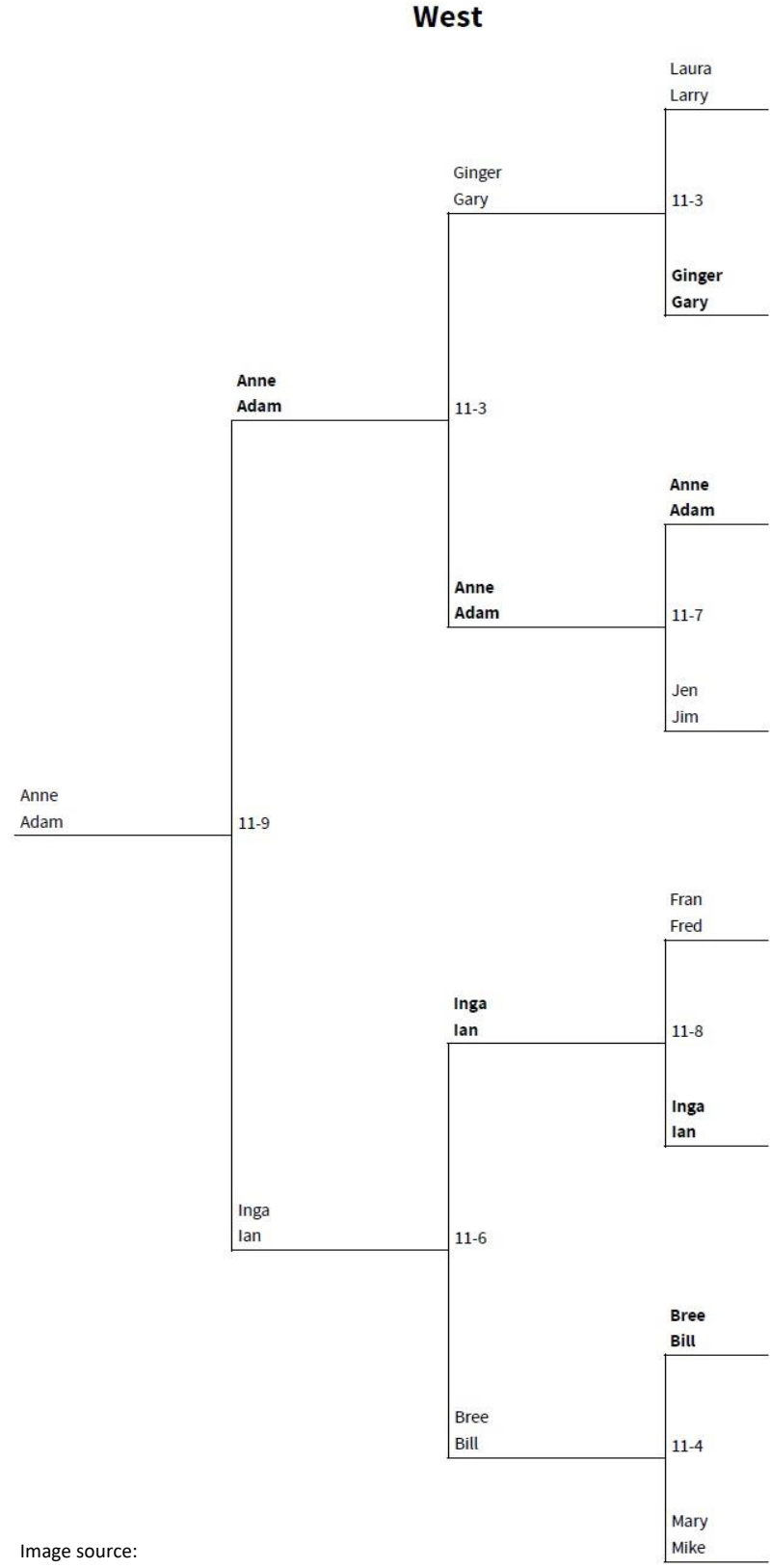


Image source:
<https://www.globalpickleball.network/>

Figure 4 – The Round 2 Losers from the East Bracket Move to the North Bracket

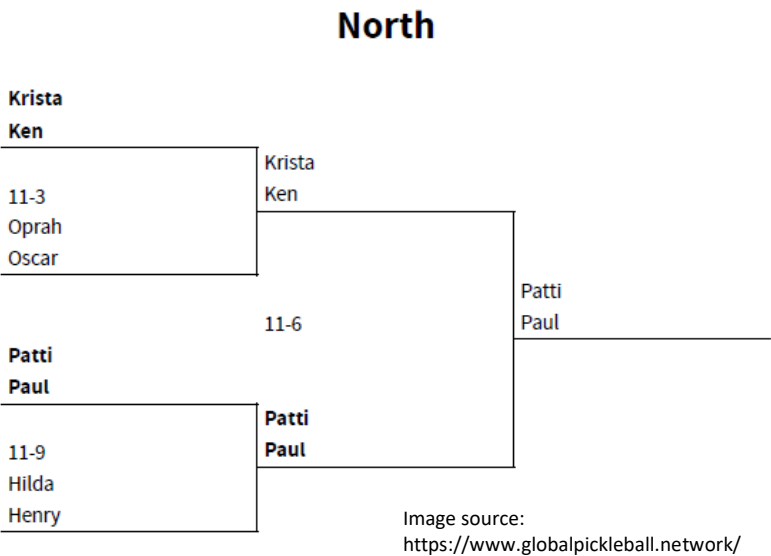


Figure 5 – The Round 2 Losers from the West Bracket Move to the South Bracket

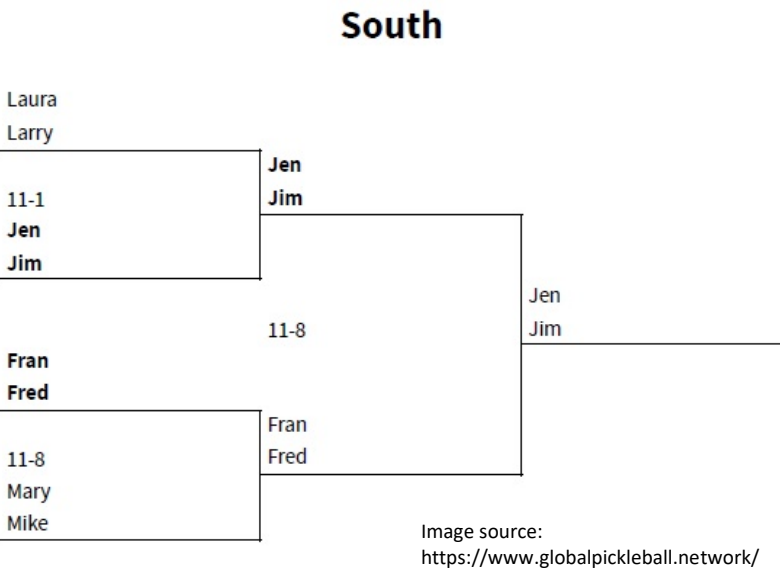


Figure 6 – The Round 3 Losers Move (From → To):

(E → NE), (N → NW), (W → SW), (S → SE)

Northwest

Hilda Henry	Oprah Oscar
	11-6 Hilda Henry

Northeast

Clara Chuck	Clara Chuck
11-8 Eve Eddy	

Southwest

Ginger Gary	Ginger Gary
	11-8 Bree Bill

Southeast

Laura Larry	Laura Larry
11-4 Mary Mike	

Image source:
<https://www.globalpickleball.network/>