**Ladder Play with Byes**

7/21/25

The process below is explained to the players and group agreement is reached before continuing. Without group acceptance, the process could face difficulties later. Honesty and cooperation is required by all players to make this work. As seen in the table below, 15 players presents the worst situation, where 3 players must sit out twice.

**The Math**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # of Players | # of filled courts | Games | Extra players | # of byes per game | Total # of byes | # of players to sit twice |
| 13 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 14 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| 15 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 18 | **3\*** |
| 17 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 18 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| 19 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 0 |
| 21 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 22 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| 23 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 0 |

*6 games played*

*3 byes x 6 games = 18 total byes are needed*

*With only 15 players, 3 players must sit twice.*

**Steps** (example of 15 players & 3 byes)

1. Explain to players before drawing cards that there will be 3 byes and ask for volunteers for the first game.
2. After 3 players have volunteered, the remaining 12 players draw cards for the remaining 12 court spots.
3. The first game is played, and players move to their new court positions.
4. Before the host starts the 2nd game, 3 players who have already moved to their new court position volunteer as byes for game #2. The 3 byes that sat out in game 1 randomly replace the 3 players who volunteered to sit out for game 2. This requires group cooperation.
5. After each game, repeat this process with the understanding that for most scenarios, a bye is not required by every player. However, if there are 15 players, there will be 2 byes required by 3 players.
6. An alternate way to determine who the 2 bye individuals will be is to agree that whoever draws the heart for courts 6, 7 & 8 will be the 2 bye players.