



MARCH MADNESS 2008 RULES (AS OF 17 MARCH 2008)

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THE EVENT

Oraclâ March Madness 2008 is a chance for Talossans and friends of Talossa to compete for bragging rights by way of making clairvoyant predictions on the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Men's and Women's Division I Basketball tournaments.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Oraclâ March Madness 2008 is open to any citizen, prospective, former citizen, or Friend in either the Republic or the Kingdom of Talossa as well as anyone who has ever been a contestant in Oraclâ March Madness in the past.



THE COMPETITIONS

In Oraclá's March Madness scheme, you have not just one chance to win it all, but five:

- Oraclá March Madness 2008 Division I Women's Total Games**
- Oraclá March Madness 2008 Division I Women's Points**
- Oraclá March Madness 2008 Division I Men's Total Games**
- Oraclá March Madness 2008 Division I Men's Points**
- Oraclá March Madness 2008 Division I Combined Pick-a-Champion**

“TOTAL GAMES” COMPETITIONS

“Total Games” is nothing more than trying to correctly predict the outcome of all 63 games in one tournament or the other. In each tournament, there are 63 games in all, and one will do well, I expect, to guess at least 40 correctly.

“POINTS” COMPETITIONS

“Points” refers to the following point system:

- correctly-guessed 1st round game = 1 point (32 games - 32 possible points)
- correctly-guessed 2nd round game = 2 points (16 games - 32 possible points)
- correctly-guessed Regional Semifinal game = 4 points (8 games - 32 possible points)
- correctly-guessed Regional Final = 8 points (4 games - 32 possible points)
- correctly-guessed National Semifinal = 16 points (2 games - 32 possible points)
- correctly-guessed National Final = 32 points (1 game - 192 total possible points)

192 total points possible for either the Men's or the Women's tournament

Whoever has the most points for one tournament or the other wins the respective Points competition.

COMBINED PICK-A-CHAMPION

Pick the winners of both the women's and men's tournaments. If you are the only person to correctly pick both champions, you are automatically the winner of the competition. If, as is very likely, there is a tie, the tie will be broken by way of the tiebreakers discussed elsewhere.

If no-one (as happened in 2006) correctly picks even one champion in either tournament, there will be no tiebreakers and no Combined Pick-a-Champion winner. 2006 saw us have no winner in this competition. 2007, however, saw Gödafriëu Válcadác'h become the first-ever Pick-a-Champion winner by way of a tiebreak.

PAST WINNERS:

Men's Points

2007 (3 contestants) - 1st Greg Gollinger (115 pts.), 2nd Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (97 pts.), 3rd X. Pól Brigâ (81 pts.)

2006 (8 contestants) - 1st Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (74 pts.), 2nd Alan Simmerman (72 pts.), 3rd John Woolley (67 pts.)

Men's Total Games

2007 (3 contestants) - 1st Greg Gollinger (41 games), 2nd X. Pól Brigâ (41 games - lost on tiebreak via champion pick), 3rd Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (32 games)

2006 (8 contestants) - 1st Alan Simmerman (39 games), 2nd Chris Gruber (39 games - lost on tiebreak via final score guess), 3rd Greg Gollinger (38 games)

Women's Points

2007 (2 contestants) - 1st Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (73 pts.), 2nd X. Pól Brigâ (57 pts.)

2006 (3 contestants) - 1st Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (105 pts.), 2nd Greg Gollinger (89 pts.), 3rd X. Pól Brigâ (69 pts.)

Women's Total Games

2007 (2 contestants) - 1st Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (42 games), 2nd X. Pól Brigâ (34 games)

2006 (3 contestants) - 1st Greg Gollinger (44 games), 2nd Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (43 games), 3rd X. Pól Brigâ (39 games)

Combined Pick-a-Champion

2007: Gödafrieu Válcadác'h (1 champion picked - won on 2nd tiebreaker)

2006: No winner

TIEBREAKERS

Men's Points and Total Games:

1. Correctly guessing the National Champion
2. Correctly guessing the loser in the National Final
3. Most number of correctly-guessed Final Four teams
4. Most number of correctly-guessed Elite Eight teams
5. Most number of correctly-guessed Sweet Sixteen teams
6. Most number of correctly-guessed Final 32 teams
7. Highest seed in any region to be correctly-guessed as being upset in any region and any game in the First Round, the Second Round, the Regional Semifinals, or the Regional Finals

If these breakers do not resolve a tie, said tie shall remain a tie.

Women's Points and Total Games:

1. Correctly guessing the National Champion
2. Correctly guessing the loser in the National Final
3. Most number of correctly-guessed Final Four teams
4. Most number of correctly-guessed Elite Eight teams
5. Most number of correctly-guessed Sweet Sixteen teams
6. Most number of correctly-guessed Final 32 teams
7. Highest seed in any region to be correctly-guessed as being upset in any region and any game in the First Round, the Second Round, the Regional Semifinals, or the Regional Finals

If these breakers do not resolve a tie, said tie shall remain a tie.

Combined Pick-a-Champion

1. Most number of correctly-guessed National Final losers
in both tournaments combined
2. Most number of correctly-guessed Final Four teams in both tournaments combined
3. Most number of correctly-guessed Elite Eight teams in both tournaments combined
4. Most number of correctly-guessed Sweet Sixteen teams
in both tournaments combined
5. Most number of correctly-guessed Final 32 teams in both tournaments combined

If these breakers do not resolve a tie, said tie shall remain a tie.

ENTERING ORACLÂ MARCH MADNESS has never been easier. For the first time, the NCAA has instituted an online *Bracket Challenge* for both the Men's and Women's tournaments (*the Yahoo Tournament Pick 'em for the Men I announced previously has been scuttled*) which will make it possible for you to easily generate .pdfs of your picks and submit to me by way of email. These .pdfs will be posted to www.oraclamarchmadness.com and will be downloadable. **Your .pdfs of both the Men's and Women's tourneys may be submitted to me to jeff@jeffrags.com or faxed to 713-513-5445.**



<http://www.ncaa.com/MensBracketChallenge>

Thursday 20 March 2008 at 9:00am CDT: Deadline for Men's brackets submission

<http://www.ncaa.com/WomensBracketChallenge>

Saturday 22 March 2008 at 9:00am CDT: Deadline for Women's brackets submission

NOTE: For the Men's tourney only: If you pick North Carolina to beat the 64-65 play-in winner, you may go ahead and submit your brackets immediately. If you pick N. Carolina to fall to the 64-65 play-in winner, you must wait until the conclusion of that game to submit your bracket to me.

Once you have submitted your picks, use the "Print Brackets" button to generate a .pdf of your brackets. **[Saving this .pdf and sending it to me at jeff@jeffrags.com \(or fax to 713-513-5445\)](mailto:jeff@jeffrags.com) is the way to submit your picks for both the Men's and Women's events in Oraclâ March Madness 2008. When you do, please give me your profile name as well so I can look up your brackets online.**

Changing your picks

If you've submitted your picks before the deadline for each tourney, you may submit to me replacement picks so long as I've got them before the deadlines below.

[If you have difficulties with the NCAA's Bracket Challenge, I will have blank Excel 2003 spreadsheet brackets available at www.marchmadness.com - Fill these out, and email them to me at jeff@jeffrags.com in .pdf or .xls format \(Excel 2003 or earlier\).](http://www.marchmadness.com)

NOTE: The scoring system in these Official Rules supercedes the NCAA's Bracket Challenge scoring method.

OFFICIAL NCAA WEBSITES

The official NCAA website for Men's Championship information (including bracket) is at <http://www.ncaasports.com/basketball/mens/schedules>

The official NCAA website for Women's Championship information (including bracket) is at <http://www.ncaasports.com/basketball/womens/schedules>

Men's tournament Selection Sunday

From <http://web1.ncaa.org/NCAATV/exec/query>

Sunday 03/16/2008 6:00 PM CBS Live Division I Men's Basketball Selection Show (65 teams)

Women's tournament Selection Monday

From <http://web1.ncaa.org/NCAATV/exec/query>

Monday 03/17/2008 7:00 PM ESPN HD Live Division I Women's Basketball Selection Show (64 teams)

AWARDS

I had hoped to have a plethora of baseball caps with special one-of-a-kind insignia for each competition winner, 2nd place, and 3rd place. But frugality must be adhered to, and beautiful electronic awards will have to suffice.

Anyone who manages to win all five competitions in a single year shall have won the GRAND SWEEP. Such a thing is indeed possible as GV last year swept the Women's events and Pick-a-Champion (winning three of the five total competitions) while G. Gollinger swept the Men's events.

In the past and without taking into account the number of contestants, placement awards were given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in all competitions. Last year's abysmal turnout proved this system to be problematic. Thus, awards for placement will be doled out by way of the following scheme:

1 contestant only - no competition will be held.

2-4 contestants: 1st place

5-6 contestants: 1st and 2nd places

7+ contestants: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

In addition to the Placement Awards, Special Awards will be given for the following

- Correctly guessing the National Champion of either or both tournaments (in addition to awards for Pick-A-Champion, if any)
- Correctly guessing every game in a Region up to and including the Regional Final
- Correctly guessing every game in a particular round overall in either or both tournaments
- perhaps other things yet to be determined

WHAT'S THIS? - NO CONTESTANT LIST YET??

Not yet. The contestants will be published here once the competitions are over and done with, at which time I will publish the archival version of these rules and contestant list.

LEGAL and OTHER

All NCAA logos used here are copyrighted to the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Until the start of the Men's Selection Sunday broadcast on Sunday 16 March, these Official Rules are subject to change.

Good luck, everyone!