COUNTBACK EXPLAINED

Players, coaches and officials find this a difficult rule to understand and the I.T.T.F. Handbook does not perhaps give a clear explanation.   Below are several scenarios that should help to clear up some of the confusion.

Scenario 1

	A	B	C	D	W-L		Pos.	Countback	Pos.
A	X	1-3	3-0	1-3	1	2	3=	A beat C	3
B	3-1	X	3-2	0-3	2	1	1=	B lost to D	2
C	0-3	2-3	X	3-1	1	2	3=	C lost to A	4
D	3-1	3-0	1-3	X	2	1	1=	D beat B	1

A and C tied for 3rd place while B and D tied for first place. In this instance the result is determined by the result of the match between the tied players.

Scenario 2

Group 1

	A	B	C	D	W-L		Pos	F-A		Ratio	Pos
A	X	3-2	3-0	1-3	2	1	1=	4	5	0.80	2
B	2-3	X	3-2	3-0	2	1	1=	5	3	1.66	1
C	0-3	2-3	X	1-3	0	3	4	X		X	4
D	3-1	0-3	3-1	X	2	1	1=	3	4	0.75	3

Group 2

	A	B	C	D	W-L		Pos	F-A		Ratio	Pos
A	X	3-0	1-3	3-0	2	1	1=	4	3	1.33	1
B	0-3	X	3-2	3-0	2	1	1=	3	5	0.60	3
C	3-1	2-3	X	3-0	2	1	1=	5	4	1.25	2
D	0-3	0-3	0-3	X	0	3	4	X		X	4

On considering countback the games with C in group 1 and D in group 2 are discounted as these players did not tie with any other player. The games won and lost between the others are added up and the ratio of wins to losses is calculated. (i.e. the wins are divided by the losses). The higher the ratio, the higher the placing.

Scenario 3

	A	B	C	D	W L	Pos	F A	Ratio	Points F A	Ratio	Pos
A	X	3-2	3-0	2-3	2 1	1=	5-5	1	89-95	0.93	3
B	2-3	X	3-0	3-2	2 1	1=	5-5	1	100-98	1.02	2
C	0-3	0-3	X	0-3	0 3	4	X	X	X	X	4
D	3-2	2-3	3-0	X	2 1	1=	5-5	1	101-97	1.04	1

The games won and lost between A, B and D are equal and therefore the ratio is the same. In this case we have to count the points for and against and then calculate the ratio of wins to losses. If by some fluke, 2 or more players have the same points for and against and therefore the same ratio, the final positions will be decided by lot. (This is even less desirable than a penalty shoot out!!!)

 I hope these examples have made things clearer. If not or if you have any further queries regarding this or any other topic, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

 Stewart McGowan, 69 Cavendish Avenue, PERTH, PH2 0JU

stewart@smcgowan3.wanadoo.co.uk   01738-620958