



Predictions.
Pursuit.
Playoffs.
Champions.

Statsketball Tournament 2019

Don't leave your NCAA Basketball Tournament bracket predictions to chance—put your statistics skills to the test!

This is Statistics and the American Statistical Association are challenging high school and undergraduate students to predict the outcome of the 2019 NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments using statistics rather than luck.

We already know statistics has the power to best predict a winner, and analytics careers in sports are booming. Whether you enter for fun or to jumpstart your future career as a statistician, you won't want to miss this.

Statsketball offers two unique challenges:

Contest 1: "Pick 'Em": Upset Challenge

The "Pick 'Em": Upset Challenge allows students to use statistical methodology to submit a list of teams they predict will win first-round games by March 21 at 12:00 pm ET with a 300-word description of statistical techniques and methods to show submitted work is original.

Submissions will be judged primarily on their methodology, as described in the written description. Two points will be awarded for each correct pick. Additional points will be added in the amount of the seed difference if an upset is predicted correctly.

For example: The correct prediction of a No. 12 seed over a No. 5 seed would be worth 2 points plus the difference between the two seeds: $2 + (12 - 5) = 9$. The correct prediction of a No. 5 seed over a No. 12 seed would be worth two points total.

The winners will be determined by essay considerations for originality and creativity. Teams with the most points may not necessarily be the winner. Students may submit one entry each for both the Men's and Women's Tournament.

Contest 2: "Build Your Own Bracket": Draft Challenge

Students have 224 draft points to assemble their cohort of teams from the seeded participants. A team's draft points (DPs) are determined by their seeding: No. 1 seeds are 75 DPs; #2, 40; #3, 25; #4, 20; #5, 17; #6, 15; #7, 12; #8, 10; #9, 9; #10, 8; #11, 7; #12, 6; #13, 5; #14, 4; #15, 3; and #16, 1.

Submit the cohort of teams, not to exceed 224 DPs along; with a 300-word description of the statistical techniques and methods to demonstrate the submitted work is original. For each round the cohort team's advances, an increasing number of points is awarded: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 13 for each corresponding round.

The winners will be determined by whose cohort has the most points at the end of the tournament, along with essay considerations for originality and creativity. Teams with the most points may not necessarily be the winner. Students may submit one entry each for both the Men's and Women's Tournament.

Prizes

Each winning team will receive the following prize package, not to mention the prestige, fame and glory of being a *This Is Statistics* Statsketball Tournament contest winner!

- A \$50 Amazon gift card
- A complimentary student membership to the American Statistical Association for each team member
- A Statsketball Tournament 2019 winner t-shirt for each team member

FAQ

Who is eligible to participate in the contest? Are there team size requirements?

- Both contests are open to high school and college undergraduate students. Teams sizes may range from 2-4 members.

How can I enter the contest?

- An online submission form will be available at ThisIsStatistics.org following each tournament's respective selection shows. Men's teams will be announced on March 17 and women's teams will be announced March 18.

When is the deadline for entries?

- Entries, including picks and essays, for both contests are due by March 21, 2019, at 12:00 pm ET.

Can I enter both contests? Can I submit picks for both the men and women's tournaments?

- High school and undergraduate students are welcome to enter both contests for both tournaments but may only make one submission per category. Each submission will be made separately.

Are there team size requirements?

- Teams sizes may range from 2-4 members.

Questions?

Email us at thisisstats@gmail.com with questions.