

Qualifying Round Rules

1. Tournament Format

The tournament shall follow a **double elimination format**, with **Upper Bracket matches played as Best of 3 (BO3)** and **Lower Bracket matches played as Best of 1 (BO1)**.

2. Match Rules

- Each match shall allow **six (6) bans**.
- **No pauses** shall be allowed during the match. All teams are required to **ensure a stable internet connection** and are strongly advised to have a backup connection in case of connectivity issues.
- All matches shall commence at **8:00 AM**.
- Teams failing to appear within **ten (10) minutes** of their scheduled match shall be **disqualified**.

3. Qualifying Round Rules

3.1 Clash of Schools Qualifiers

- **Date:** January 17, 2026 (Saturday)
- **Brackets:** Eight (8) brackets will be held.
- **Advancement:** The **top two (2) teams from each bracket** shall advance.

3.2 Sibugay Qualifiers

- **Date:** January 18, 2026 (Sunday)
- **Brackets:** Five (5) brackets will be held.
- **Advancement:** The **winner of each bracket** shall advance.

3.3 Open PH Qualifiers

- **Date:** January 24, 2026 (Saturday)
- **Brackets:** Five (5) brackets will be held.
- **Advancement:** The **top two (2) teams from each bracket** shall advance, for a total of **ten (10) teams**.

4. Compliance

All participating teams are expected to **comply with these rules** to ensure a **fair, orderly, and competitive tournament**. In addition, each team is **required to adhere to the ZSML Season IV Official Rules and Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)**. Any violation of these rules may result in the imposition of consequences or penalties as prescribed in the IRR, including, but not limited to, disqualification, forfeiture of matches, or other disciplinary actions deemed necessary by the tournament organizers.