

FatBracket



**CALCUTTA
PLAYERS
HANDBOOK**

**Complete rules
and regulations**

**Strategies, reading
the room, and
successful bidding**

**PROPS: Winning
blowout specials
and upsets**

2024 ISSUE



CALCUTTA 2024 RULES

FatBracket Calcutta is an exclusive live auction of all 68 teams participating in the NCAA Men's College Basketball tournament. FatBracket is not associated in any way with the NCAA or the tournament and does not give back to the academic community nor provides public service of any kind. This is our brand promise.

The following rules make a traditional Calcutta... **FatBracket**, a crafted, friendly game perfected to enhance the lives of college basketball enthusiasts. Enjoy!

Calcutta Organization

The live auction is separated into two batches:

- Batch 1: 60 teams seeded 3-16
- Batch 2: 8 teams seeded 1-2

Bidding Process and Limits

The auctioneer pulls teams up for bid at random, 60 teams in the first batch and 8 teams in the second batch.

Batch 1: Seeds 3-16 (60 Teams) - Bid Limit: 500

The auctioneer pulls the first team out and states the starting bid and bidding increments. It is solely at the auctioneer's discretion to accept a bid lower than being sought. Typically bid increments sought are 10 percent higher than the current bid, and the auctioneer can deny bids less than 10 percent higher at their sole discretion.



Players may bid any amount they choose on teams. **To create balance in the first round of the auction, once a player expends more than 500 points, they may not bid on any more teams during the first batch.**

Example: Player BUTTKICKERS has acquired three teams for a total of 500 points exactly. BUTTKICKERS may continue to bid any amount desired on remaining teams as they have not exceeded 500 bid points. So they can buy Duke, as an example, for 400 points putting them at 900 total points expended in Batch 1: BUTTKICKERS may no longer bid until Batch 2.

Once a team has been claimed by a FatBracket player, the player must confirm the team and winning bid amount before the auction continues.

Batch 2: Seeds 1-2 (8 Teams) Bid Limit: No Limit

The auction continues at random, now with just 8 teams. All players, regardless if they surpassed the 500 bid limit in Batch 1 or not may bid any amount they choose on teams in Batch 2. There is no limit on bidding in Batch 2. *NOTE: Colluding often occurs- keep all bids in the name of one player.*

Team Dividends

Dividends are earned by players based on their acquired teams' performances. Players receive dividends by:

- Winning games within the field of 64.
- Props, including the First Four, Blowout Specials and Biggest Upsets

Winning Games Dividends (86% of Total)

Every time a team wins, they earn dividends. Those dividends grow in size as teams advance in the tournament. The table below shows the cumulative dividend distributions once the tournament is over, by team and as a percentage of the total points bid. Notice that while 32 teams win their first game, only 16 teams finish the tournament with just one win.

Final Four Appearances Since Y2K

Seed	Appearances	As %
1	33	35.9%
2	19	20.7%
3	10	10.9%
4	7	7.6%
5	8	8.7%
6	0	0.0%
7	3	3.3%
8	5	5.4%
9	2	2.2%
10	1	1.1%
11	4	4.3%
12-16	0	0.0%



"Take two breaks during Batch 1, and a third break before Batch 2."

Winning Games Dividends (86% of Total)

WINS	ROUND	PERCENT	TEAMS	TOTAL
1	3rd	0.5%	16	8.0%
2	Sweet 16	2.0%	8	16.0%
3	Elite 8	3.0%	4	12.0%
4	Final Four	6.0%	2	12.0%
5	Finals	12.5%	1	12.5%
6	Champion	25.5%	1	25.5%

Prop Dividends (14% of Total)

Props include the First Four Play-in Games of the tournament typically played on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Biggest Blowout and Biggest Upsets in the games played in round 2 (formerly Round 1) played on Thursday and Friday.

First Four Play-in Games

First Four wins earn 0.5% of the pot back in dividends, and live to play another game. The next game they play makes them eligible for a win as well as Blowout and Upset props. First Four teams demand a larger bid than if the team was not in the First Four. It is a great dynamic to FatBracket.
NOTE: If your auction is held during or after the First Four games, the work-around is to auction both teams off at the same time knowing one game winning dividend is already in hand.

Blowouts

Blowouts are calculated by the largest differential in points between the winning team and losing team. The team LOSING by the most points claims the Blowout 1 dividend. The team losing by the second most points claims Blowout 2 and the team losing by the third most points claims Blowout 3. Should a tie occur, the teams and dividends are pooled and split equally.



"First Four Seeds Typical Receive 50% Increased Bids"

Blowouts Tie Pooling and Splitting Dividends Example:

*Duke 92, Winthrop 43 (49 point loss: B1 3.0%)
 Maryland 78, DePaul 36 (42 point loss splits B2 and B3 1.5%)
 Kansas 84, VCU 42 (42 point loss splits B2 and B3 1.5%)
 UCLA 82, San Francisco 42 (40 point loss. No dividend)*

BIGGEST BLOWOUTS SINCE Y2K

SCORE	SEED	MARGIN	YEAR
Gonzaga 98, Norfolk St 55	16	43	2021
Villanova 53, Lafayette 52	16	41	2015
Wisconsin 75, American 35	15	40	2014
Syracuse 81, Montana 34	13	47	2013
VCU 88, Akron 42	12	46	2013
UConn 103, Chattanooga 47	16	56	2009
N. Carolina 101, Radford 58	16	43	2009
UCLA 70, Miss. Valley St 29	16	41	2008
Florida 112, Jackson State 69	16	43	2007
Kansas 107, Niagara 67	16	40	2007

PROPS ARE ROUND 2 ONLY

Props are based on the 32 games played on Thursday March 21st 2024 and Friday March 22nd 2024 only.

	FIRST FOUR	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	Sweet 16	Elite 8	Final Four	Final
DAYS	Tue / Wed	Thu / Fri	Sat / Sun	Thu / Fri	Sat / Sun	Sat	Mon
DATES	Mar 19/20	Mar 21/22	Mar 23/24	Mar 28/29	Mar 30/31	Apr 6	Apr 8
PROPS	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

UPSETS are based exclusively on tournament seeding. Teams seeded 9 - 16 are eligible to receive this prop's dividends. Should a tie occur, the teams and dividends are pooled and split equally. Example (2021):

- #15 Oral Roberts beat #2 Ohio St (U1, 3.0%)
- #14 Abilene Christian beat #3 Texas (U2 2.0%)
- #13 North Texas beat #4 Purdue (U3 Split (0.5%))
- #13 Ohio beat #4 Virginia (U3 Split (0.5%))

33 YEARS OF UPSETS

SEED VS. SEED.	W-L	PCT.	Upset in Years
#1 vs. #16	150-2	.987	2 in 33 Years
#2 vs. #15	141-11	.928	1 in 3 Years
#3 vs. #14	130-22	.855	2 in 3 Years
#4 vs. #13	120-32	.789	1 in 1 Year
#5 vs. #12	99-53	.651	2x Year
#6 vs. #11	94-58	.618	2x Year
#7 vs. #10*	92-59	.609	2x Year
#8 vs. #9	74-78	.487	Every Year

* One game forfeited |
 Data as of February 2024



"Focus on Seeds 14 - 16 for Upsets and Blowouts."

2014 SAMPLE AUCTION

Draft#	Region	Seed	Team	Player	Acquired Points	% of Total	Comments
1	West	10	BYU	Crowne	65	0.6%	
2	Midwest	3	Duke	FlyGuy	200	1.8%	
3	West	11	Nebraska	Edgefield	55	0.5%	
4	West	14	UL-Lafayette	Spartan	60	0.5%	
5	South	4	UCLA	BigBubs	220	2.0%	
6	Midwest	12	N C State	White House	45	0.4%	
7	East	10	Saint Joe's	Rainbow	55	0.5%	
8	Midwest	15	Wofford	Presidente	50	0.5%	
9	West	16	Weber St	Rainbow	55	0.5%	
10	West	5	Oklahoma	FlyGuy	100	0.9%	
11	West	8	Gonzaga	National	65	0.6%	
12	East	15	UW-Milwa	The Jets	45	0.4%	
13	South	3	Syracuse	Cub	220	2.0%	
14	Midwest	9	Kansas St	TY WEBB	55	0.5%	
15	Midwest	14	Mercer	Rainbow	45	0.4%	
16	South	6	Ohio St	Presidente	90	0.8%	
17	Midwest	8	Kentucky	National	105	1.0%	
18	West	9	Oklahoma St	Red	85	0.8%	
19	Midwest	11	Tennessee	Rooster	75	0.7%	
20	East	12	Harvard	TY WEBB	70	0.6%	
21	Midwest	13	Manhattan	Tuber	45	0.4%	
22	East	7	Connecticut	The Jets	70	0.6%	
23	South	11	Dayton	White House	40	0.4%	
24	South	13	Tulsa	Spartan	55	0.5%	
25	South	15	Eastern Ky	Tuber	45	0.4%	
26	Midwest	16	Texas So	Rooster	50	0.5%	
27	Midwest	5	Saint Louis	Edgefield	50	0.5%	
28	Midwest	11	Iowa	TJ	55	0.5%	
29	Midwest	10	Arizona St	Tuber	65	0.6%	
30	East	5	Cincinnati	Red	80	0.7%	
31	South	16	Mt St Mary's	TJ	45	0.4%	
32	East	11	Providence	White House	50	0.5%	
33	South	9	Pittsburgh	TY WEBB	35	0.3%	
34	West	7	Oregon	Tuber	60	0.5%	
35	West	6	Baylor	Rooster	75	0.7%	
36	West	13	New Mex St	White House	40	0.4%	
37	Midwest	4	Louisville	Spartan	600	5.5%	
38	South	16	Albany	TJ	40	0.4%	
39	West	4	San Diego St	Buttkickers	100	0.9%	
40	South	5	VCU	White House	70	0.6%	
41	South	8	Colorado	The Jets	55	0.5%	
42	East	9	Geo Wash	TY WEBB	40	0.4%	
43	South	7	New Mexico	Buttkickers	50	0.5%	
44	West	3	Creighton	Rainbow	280	2.5%	
45	Midwest	7	Texas	TY WEBB	100	0.9%	
46	East	6	N Carolina	Edgefield	120	1.1%	
47	East	8	Memphis	Rocker	65	0.6%	
48	South	10	Stanford	Rocker	65	0.6%	
49	West	12	No Dakota	National	65	0.6%	
50	South	12	SF Austin	Rocker	50	0.5%	
51	East	14	NC Central	Don Quixote	60	0.5%	
52	East	16	Coast Car	Don Quixote	45	0.4%	
53	West	15	American	Presidente	40	0.4%	
54	East	4	Michigan St	All Net	525	4.8%	
55	Midwest	6	Umass	Buttkickers	50	0.5%	
56	East	3	Iowa St	Don Quixote	400	3.6%	
57	Midwest	16	Cal Poly	TJ	60	0.5%	
58	Midwest	12	Xavier	Red	70	0.6%	
59	South	14	W Michigan	Rocker	60	0.5%	
60	East	13	Delaware	Rooster	60	0.5%	
61	West	2	Wisconsin	Rooster	420	3.8%	
62	South	1	Florida	The Jets	1025	9.3%	
63	East	2	Villanova	TY WEBB	500	4.6%	
64	South	2	Kansas	TJ	500	4.6%	
65	East	1	Virginia	Buttkickers	800	7.3%	
66	Midwest	2	Michigan	Rocker	525	4.8%	
67	Midwest	1	Wichita St	Don Quixote	850	7.7%	
68	West	1	Arizona	FlyGuy	675	6.1%	
TOTAL					10985	100.0%	

SEEDS 3-16 AUCTIONED IN RANDOM ORDER

SEEDS 1-2

2014 BY SEED

Seed	Acquired Points	Teams	Points per Team	% of Total
1	3350	4	838	8%
2	1945	4	486	4%
3	1100	4	275	3%
4	1445	4	361	3%
5	300	4	75	1%
6	335	4	84	1%
7	280	4	70	1%
8	290	4	73	1%
9	215	4	54	0%
10	250	4	63	1%
11	275	5	55	1%
12	300	5	60	1%
13	200	4	50	0%
14	225	4	56	1%
15	180	4	45	0%
16	295	6	49	0%
TOTAL	10985	68	162	1%

CREDITS

FatBracket and its Calcutta methodology is trademarked and may not be used outside of FatBracket, nor modified for use, without the express written consent of Michael Markette. This includes the use of 1) Separating teams into auction batches 2) Limits on bidding 3) Blowout specials and / or 4) Biggest upsets.

We hope you enjoy FatBracket.
Good bidding!



Commissioner
Michael Markette



PLAY THE TOURNEY THE BEST WAY EVER!

THE ONLY THING MORE FUN THAN THE ANNUAL
FATBRACKET CALCUTTA IS SOMETHING ELSE
YOU ALSO GET JUST ONCE A YEAR.

From one of the pioneers of basketball Calcuttas, seven time FatBracket champion Michael Markette, comes the complete resource for playing and running an uproariously entertaining Calcutta auction, whether you're hanging out with friends and family, spicing up a party, or hosting an official event at your local pub.

More than a printed bracket and a spreadsheet, the FatBracket app contains all the logic, reporting, facts and tips and social media links to host the best event of the year.

*"If my boss fired me, I'd be upset and
reluctantly find a new job.*

*If my wife left me, I'd be crushed and find a
way to carry on with my life.*

*If I was banned from FatBracket... you'd be
the only one I begged to stay."*

-Rock

