

What do you think it takes to win a championship? Teamwork? Aggression? Luck?

In a 100m sprint the answer is simple - the fastest person wins. If you want to know who won the race, the person who had the fastest time over 100m was the winner.

However, because the race is so short, the person who is quickest off the blocks is often also the winner. It's not as definite as the fastest time but the quicker a sprinter's reaction time is, the more likely they are going to win.

The same goes for a game of Australian Rules football. The team that scores the most points is always going to be the winner. But what about the team with the most number of kicks? The most number of handballs? The most number of marks? To find out if these parts of the game matter, you need to count them.

Just like counting goals and behinds to keep score, if you count the number of kicks, handballs and marks over a game then you have numbers you can compare with other teams. These numbers are called statistics. They are a way to measure and compare something you are interested in.

To explore statistics, we are going to work out the winners of 9 games of a fictional finals season in an Australian Rules football competition. The teams are made up but the numbers are based on results. You will be able to use these numbers to work out WHO WON IT?



THE DOG LEAGUE & THE FINAL EIGHT

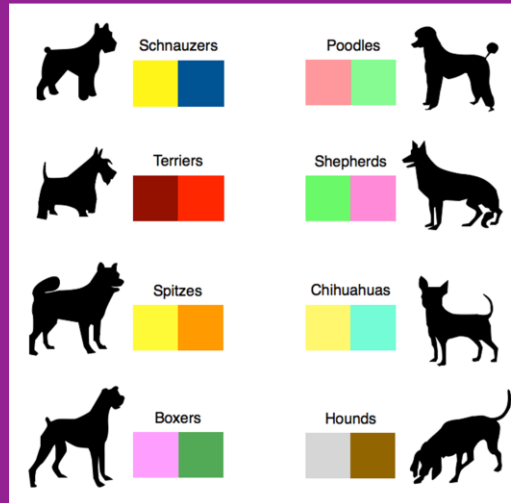


THE DOG LEAGUE

A fictional competition of Australian Rules Football.

All games are based on real teams in real competitions.

We will focus on the Final Eight teams that have made it into the Finals Season.

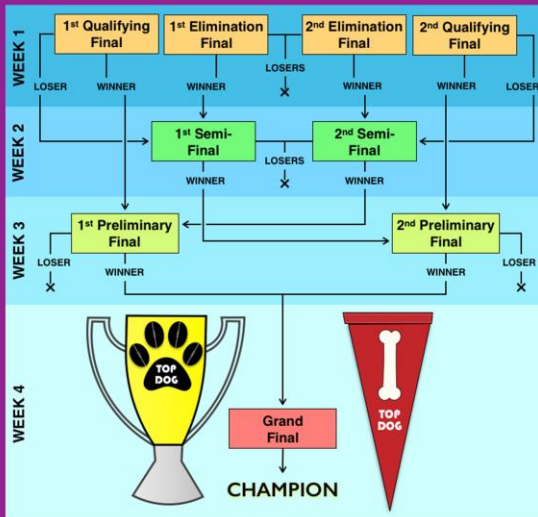


The Final Eight Teams

Each team is shown with its name, colours and logo

This activity follows the **Finals Season** of a fictional Australian Rules football championship. This league has a total of 18 teams that after 23 rounds of regular competition are ranked from 1 to 18 on a seasonal ladder. Only the top 8 teams on the ladder make it into the Finals Season. These 8 teams are called the **Final Eight** and will play one another until there is only one team left - the **Championship Winners**.

FINALS SEASON



The Finals Season runs over four weeks and there are nine games in total.

Elimination/ Qualifying finals: 8 teams play and 2 teams are eliminated

Semi finals: 4 teams play and 2 teams are eliminated

Preliminary Finals: 4 teams play and 2 teams are eliminated

Grand final: the last 2 teams play for the championship

How can we work out which team won each game without knowing the final score?

We are going to use rules that have been created using statistics to work out the winner a fictitious finals season in Australian Rules football.

The **Finals Season** runs over 4 fictitious weeks and there are 9 games in total. All Final Eight teams play in the first week. After the first week, 2 teams are eliminated. In Weeks 2 and 3 there are 4 more teams eliminated. Week 4 is the Grand Final in which the last 2 teams play against one another for the championship.

So how can we tell who will win each game?

We are going to use six rules that have been created using statistics to 'play' a fictitious final season in Australian Rules football.

So how do we do it?

We want to find statistics that are so reliable we can apply them over the entire season - both regular matches and finals. Let's look at one of these rules in detail: the kicks rule.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

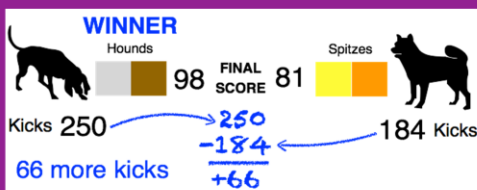
FINAL EIGHT STATISTICAL RULES



Difference in Kicks per Game	Total Games	
Teams that had less than 30 kicks over their opposition (but more than 0)	Won 64	Lost 25
Teams that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition	Won 57	Lost 0

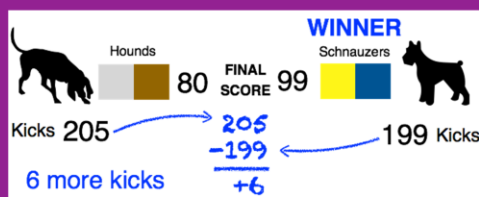
KICKS RULE

In this season, any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.



The Kicks Rule can be seen in a match between the Hounds and the Spitzes. The Hounds had 66 more kicks than the Spitzes and won that game.

The rule also comes in to play in a match between the Hounds and the Schnauzers. The Hounds had 6 more kicks than the Schnauzers but lost that game. Since the Hounds had less than 30 kicks over the Schnauzers, the rule did not guarantee them a win.



For any game in the season, we can add up all of the player's kicks on each team. The total number of kicks per team and per game is a 'Kicks' statistic. Generally, the higher the number of kicks the better the team.

However, across the season the team with the highest number of kicks was not always the winner. This is because in each game the true measure of victory is the difference between the abilities of teams. So the difference between the number of kicks per team is more important than the total number of kicks of any one team.

This statistic becomes useful when we look at teams that won where they had more than a certain number of kicks over their opposition.

We have found a valuable statistic. In all 57 games, teams that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.



STATISTICAL RULES

COMPLETE LIST



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 60 or more disposals over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

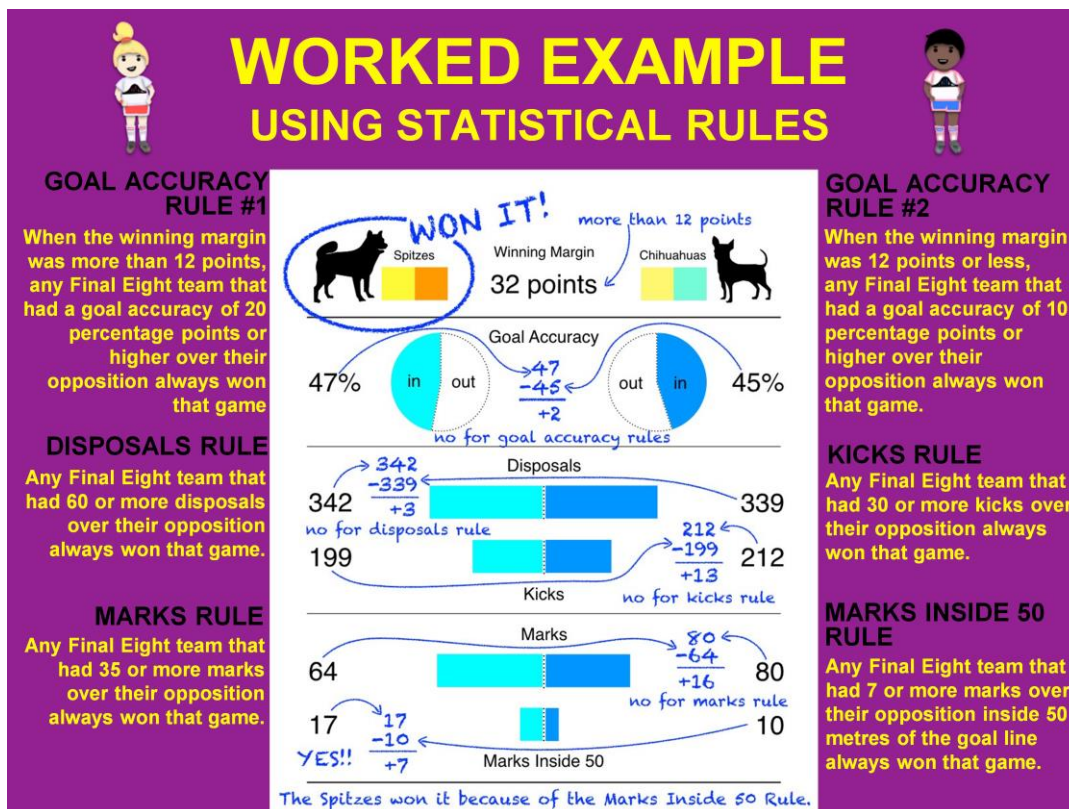
Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Like the Kicks rule, there are other rules we can use to find out the winner of our fictitious Finals Season.

Briefly go over each rule. If required for your class, there are explanations of each rule and an explanation of key terms in the Statistical Rules and Glossary document.



So, how do we do it? Here is a worked example demonstrating how you apply the each of the rules to find the winner of the match.

To work out whether you use Goal Accuracy Rule #1 or Goal Accuracy Rule #2, you need to look at the winning margin. In the example, the winning margin is 32 (which is more than 12 points) so you use Goal Accuracy Rule #2.

To work out if Goal Accuracy #2 rule applies, work out 47 minus 45. Because the difference is less than 10%, the Goal Accuracy rule does not apply.

To work out if the Disposals rule applies, work out 342 minus 339. Because the difference is less than 60, the Disposals rule does not apply.

To work out if the Kicks rule applies, work out 212 minus 199 equals. Because the difference is less than 30, the Kicks rule does not apply.

To work out if the Marks rule applies, work out 80 minus 64. Because the difference is less than 35, the Marks rule does not apply.

To work out if the Marks Inside 50 rule applies, work out 17 minus 10. Because the difference equals +7, Marks Inside 50 rule applies.

This means we can prove using statistics that the Spitzes won the match.



There are four games in the first week of the finals competition, two qualifying and two elimination finals.

Students can work individually, in pairs or in groups to work out who won the game. Depending on your class you can ask your students to share who won it after each game/slide or following the four games. Slides are provided with results and worked examples.



1st QUALIFYING FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

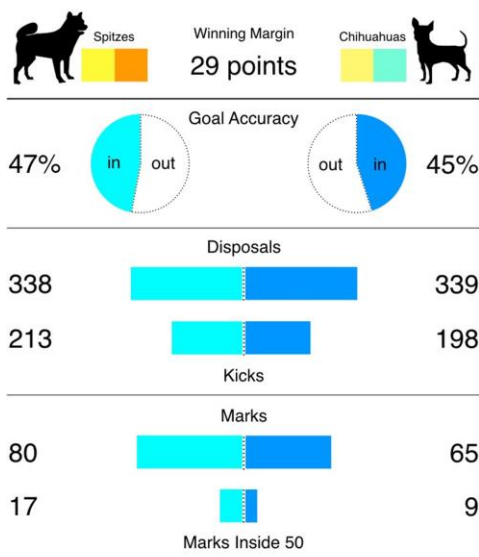
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MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is Game 1. Have students work out Who Won It?



1st ELIMINATION FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

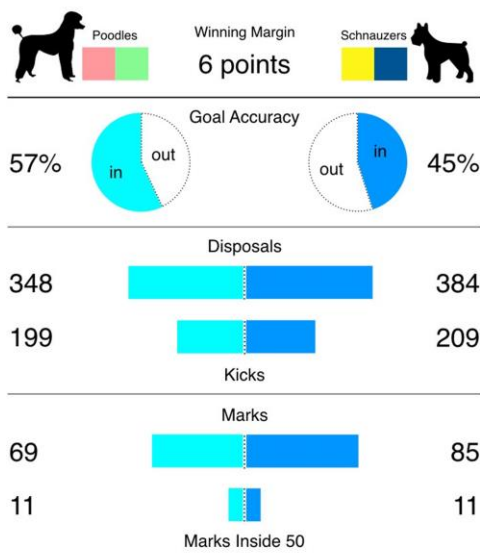
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GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is Game 2. Have students work out Who Won It?



2nd QUALIFYING FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

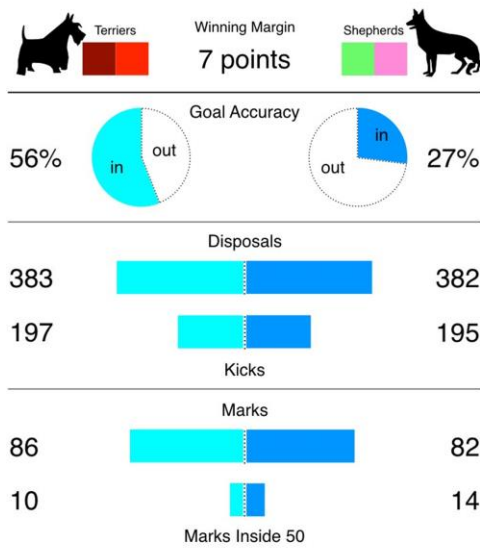
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DISPOSALS RULE

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MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is Game 3. Have students work out Who Won It?



2nd ELIMINATION FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

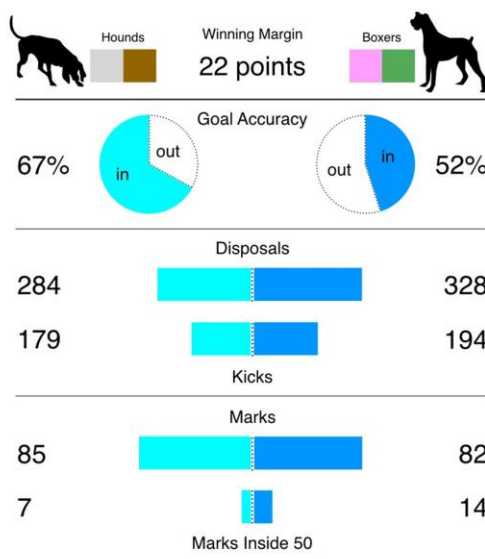
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MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is Game 4. Have students work out Who Won It?



The following four slides show worked results to use as appropriate for your class.



1st QUALIFYING FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 60 or more disposals over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.

		WON IT!			
Spitzes		Winning Margin		Chihuahuas	
47%		29 > 12		45%	
+2		1st Goal Accuracy RULE		NO	
< 20		since the winning margin was > 12			

		Disposals RULE			
338		NO	60 > +1		339
213	+15	< 30	NO		198

		Kicks RULE			
		Marks RULE			
80	+15	< 35	NO		65
17	+8	≥ 7	YES		9
		Marks Inside 50 RULE			

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of Game 1. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



1st ELIMINATION FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 60 or more disposals over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



Disposals RULE			
348	NO	$60 > +36$	384
199	NO	$30 > +10$	209
Kicks RULE			
Marks RULE			
69	NO	$35 > +16$	85
11	$0 < 7$	NO	$7 > 0$
Marks Inside 50 RULE			

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of Game 2. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



2nd QUALIFYING FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 60 or more disposals over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



Disposals RULE

383	+1	< 60	NO	382
197	+2	< 30	NO	195

Kicks RULE

Marks RULE

86	+4	< 35	NO	82
10			NO 7 > +4	14

Marks Inside 50 RULE

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of Game 3. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



2nd ELIMINATION FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1


When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

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MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.




Hounds

Winning Margin

22 > 12

Boxers



1st Goal Accuracy RULE

since the winning margin was > 12

67%

+15 < 20

NO

52%

Disposals

RULE

284

NO

60 > +44

328

179

NO

30 > +15

194

Kicks

RULE

Marks

RULE

85

+3 < 35

NO

82

7

YES

7 ≥ +7

14

Marks Inside 50

RULE

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of Game 4. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



Here is the finals system used for the end-of-season playoffs after the first week of play. Two teams have been eliminated, four teams progress to the semi-finals (week 2), and two teams automatically progress to the Preliminary Finals (week 3). Students are one step closer to finding out 'Who Won It?'.



There are two semi-finals in the second week of the finals competition. Students can work individually, in pairs or in groups to work out who won the game. Depending on your class you can ask your students to share who won it after each game/slide or following the four games. Slides are provided with results and worked examples.



1st SEMI-FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

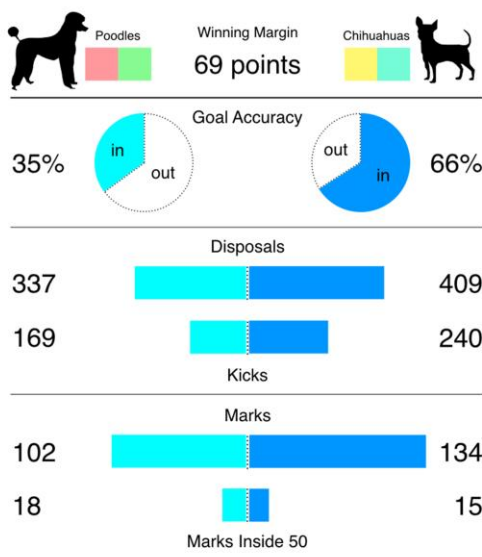
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GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

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KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is semi-final 1. Have students work out Who Won It?



2nd SEMI-FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

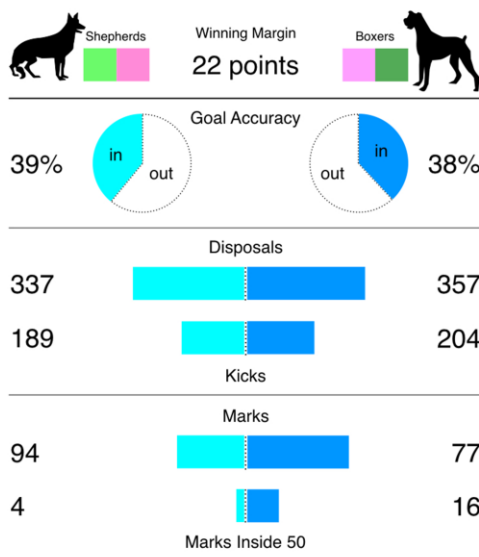
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MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is semi-final 2. Have students work out Who Won It?



The following two slides show worked results to use as appropriate for your class.



1st SEMI-FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

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MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



Disposals RULE		
337	YES 60 ≤ +72	409
169	YES 30 ≤ +71	240
Kicks RULE		
Marks RULE		
102	NO 35 > +32	134
18	+3 < 7 NO	15
Marks Inside 50 RULE		

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

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KICKS RULE

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MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of semi-final 1. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



2nd SEMI-FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1



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MARKS RULE

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	Shepherds	Winning Margin	22 > 12		Boxers
WON IT!					
1st Goal Accuracy RULE since the winning margin was > 12					
39%	+1	< 20	NO		38%
Disposals RULE					
337		NO	60 > +20		357
189		NO	30 > +15		204
Kicks RULE					
Marks RULE					
94	+17	< 35	NO		77
4			YES 7 ≤ +12		16
Marks Inside 50 RULE					

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

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KICKS RULE

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MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of semi-final 2. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



Here is the finals system used for the end-of-season playoffs after the second week of play. Two teams more have been eliminated, two teams progress to the preliminary finals and play the two teams automatically through to the Preliminary Finals (after week 1).

Students are one step closer to finding out 'Who Won It?'.



There are two preliminary in the third week of the finals competition. Students can work individually, in pairs or in groups to work out who won the game. Depending on your class you can ask your students to share who won it after each game/slide or following the four games. Slides are provided with results and worked examples.



1st PRELIMINARY FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

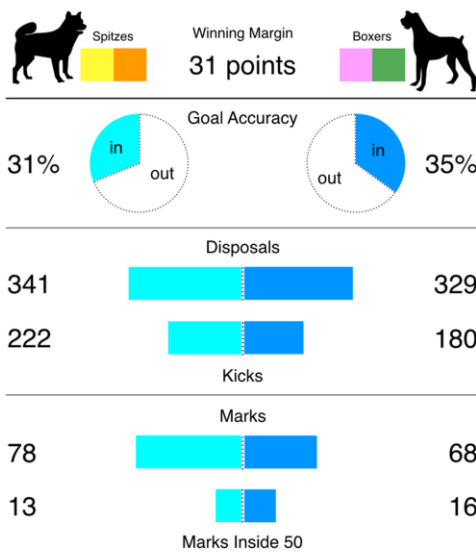
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Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is preliminary final 1. Have students work out Who Won It?



2nd PRELIMINARY FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

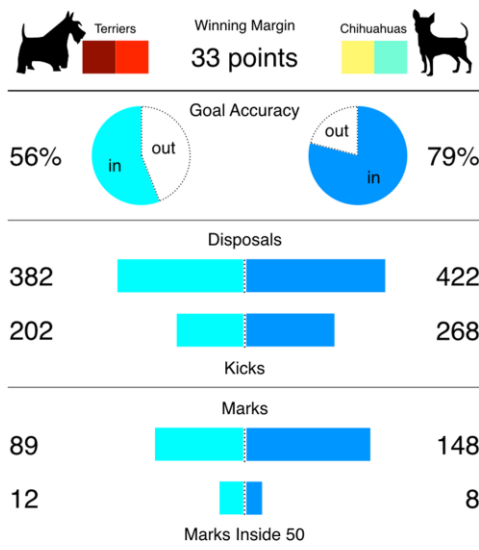
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MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is preliminary final 2. Have students work out Who Won It?



The following two slides show worked results to use as appropriate for your class.



1st PRELIMINARY FINAL



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Disposals RULE

341	+12 < 60	NO	329
222	+42 ≥ 30	YES	180

Kicks RULE

Marks RULE

78	+10 < 35	NO	68
13	NO	7 > +3	16

Marks Inside 50 RULE

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

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Here are the results of preliminary final 1. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



2nd PRELIMINARY FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1





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DISPOSALS RULE

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MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.

	Terriers		Winning Margin	33 > 12		Chihuahuas	
<p>WON IT!</p> <p>1st Goal Accuracy RULE since the winning margin was > 12</p>							
56%	YES 20 ≤ +23						79%
<hr/>							
Disposals RULE							
382	NO 60 > +40						422
202	YES 30 ≤ +66						268
Kicks RULE							
<hr/>							
Marks RULE							
89	YES 35 ≤ +59						148
12	+4 < 7	NO				8	
Marks Inside 50 RULE							

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

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MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

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Here are the results of preliminary final 2. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue.



Here is the finals system used for the end-of-season playoffs after the first third of play. Two teams more have been eliminated, and two teams are in to the Grand Final. Students are one step closer to finding out 'Who Won It?'.



There is one Grand Final in the fourth week of the finals competition. Students can work individually, in pairs or in groups to work out who won the game. Depending on your class you can ask your students to share who won it after each game/slide or following the four games. Slides are provided with results and worked examples.



GRAND FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1

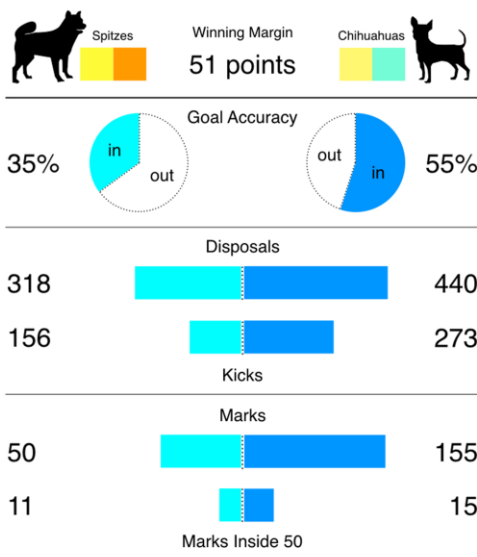
When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 60 or more disposals over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here is the Grand Final. Have students work out Who Won It?



The following two slides show worked results to use as appropriate for your class.



GRAND FINAL



GOAL ACCURACY RULE #1



When the winning margin was more than 12 points, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 20 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

DISPOSALS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 60 or more disposals over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 35 or more marks over their opposition always won that game.

CHAMPION!		
	Spitzes	
Winning Margin		
51 > 12		
1st Goal Accuracy RULE since the winning margin was > 12		
35%	YES 20 ≤ +20	55%
Disposals RULE		
318	YES 60 ≤ +122	440
156	YES 30 ≤ +117	273
Kicks RULE		
Marks RULE		
50	YES 35 ≤ +46	155
11	NO 7 > +4	15
Marks Inside 50 RULE		

GOAL ACCURACY RULE #2

When the winning margin was 12 points or less, any Final Eight team that had a goal accuracy of 10 percentage points or higher over their opposition always won that game.

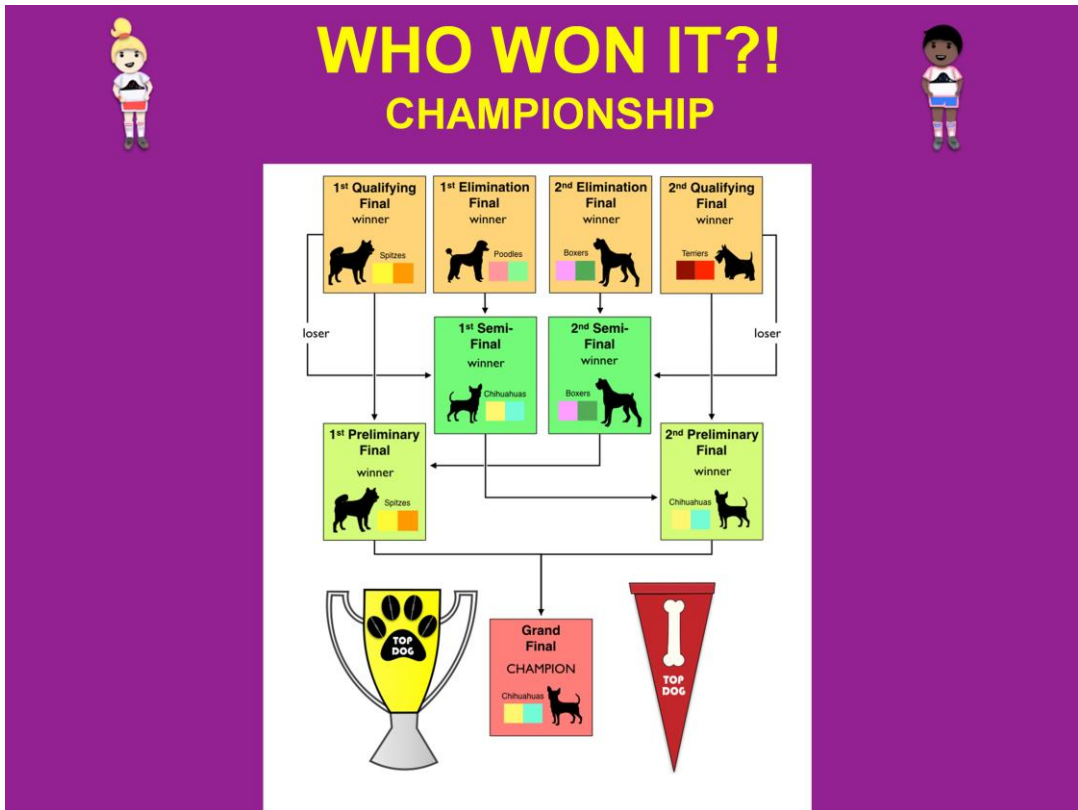
KICKS RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 30 or more kicks over their opposition always won that game.

MARKS INSIDE 50 RULE

Any Final Eight team that had 7 or more marks over their opposition inside 50 metres of the goal line always won that game.

Here are the results of the Grand Final. The rule that applies is highlighted in yellow and the winner has been circled in blue. The Chihuahuas are the winners!



Here is the finals system ...

Students should now know that the Chihuahua's won it!