On Scheduling of Incomplete Tournaments

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Tournament in which n participants play each other in $n-1$ rounds is called a round robin tournament. This type of tournament is quite fair for each participant but for instance in lots of chess tournaments the number of participants is too large to play all $n-1$ rounds. So, how can we schedule a tournament with n participants into k, $k < n-1$ rounds if we want the tournament to be as fair as possible? Swiss system is often used but it cannot be used when we need to schedule the whole tournament ahead. We can try to use graph theory to find the best possible schedule.