



**2019 HEARTHSTONE® MASTERS TOUR OFFICIAL  
COMPETITION RULES V1.0**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

These 2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour Official Competition Rules (“Official Rules”) govern competitive play of *Hearthstone* in all 2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour Tournaments (“Tour(s)”).

These Official Rules, in conjunction with the 2019 Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook (the “Handbook”), establish the rules of tournament play, including rules governing player eligibility, tournament structure, prize awards, sponsorships, player conduct, etc. The Handbook can be found here: [blizz.ly/HSrules](http://blizz.ly/HSrules)

THE TERMS OF THE HANDBOOK CONTAIN A MANDATORY ARBITRATION PROVISION IN SECTION 8 WHICH LIMITS YOUR AND BLIZZARD’S ABILITY TO LITIGATE CLAIMS; AS WELL AS A LIMITATION OF LIABILITY IN SECTION 9 WHICH LIMITS THE LIABILITY OF BLIZZARD AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BLIZZARD GROUP TO YOU FOR ALL HARM, DAMAGES, INJURY OR LOSS.

Please review the terms contained in these Official Rules and the Handbook carefully. You must agree to the terms contained in these Official Rules and the Handbook in order to participate in any Tour tournament. You must abide by these Official Rules and adhere to the terms of the Handbook in order to remain eligible to play in any Tour and receive prizes.

## 2. HEARTHSTONE MASTERS QUALIFIERS

### 2.1 Acceptance of the Official Rules.

- (a) You may accept these rules by either signing or accepting a 2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour Player Participation Agreement and Acceptance Form as provided by Blizzard, either in print or online, or by entering or participating in any game or match that is part of any Tour.
- (b) If you are over the age of 13 but under the age of majority (as described in the Handbook), your parent or legal guardian must accept these Official Rules on your behalf.
- (c) If you (or your parent or legal guardian) do not accept these Official Rules or you do not meet the player eligibility requirements in Section 3 below, you may not participate in any Tour.

## 3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 Regional Eligibility.

- (a) Tours (in any region) are only open to legal residents of the following places: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, , Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, The People’s Republic of China, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, State of Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, The Philippines, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Vietnam.
- (b) You may only participate in a Tour so long as your participation does not violate applicable local laws.

### 3.2 Invited Player Eligibility.

- (c) You may only participate in a Tour tournament if you have received an invitation from Blizzard to participate. All Tour invitations will be issued in Blizzard’s sole discretion. Players who have received an invitation to participate in a specific Tour tournament are only invited to participate in that specific Tour tournament. Blizzard will distribute invitations for each Tour tournament by posting the invited player list at <http://battlefy.com/HSEsports>. Players invited to Tour tournaments will include:
  - i. All players participating in Blizzard’s 2019 Hearthstone Grandmasters tournament (“2019 Grandmasters”).
  - ii. Certain players from the China Gold Series and Team Tournament as determined in Blizzard’s sole discretion.
  - iii. Any player who finished with 9 or more match wins in the previous two Tour events.
  - iv. Players who qualify from an official Hearthstone Masters Qualifier tournament branded as a qualifier for that particular Tour event.
  - v. Certain players who receive an invitation as a prize in approved third party tournament events, as determined in Blizzard’s sole discretion.

- vi. Certain players from Blizzard's 2018 Hearthstone Championship Tour program who have achieved the following point values referenced in the 2018-2019 Transition Period official rules document located at <http://blizz.ly/HSrules>
  - 175 or more Hearthstone Competitive points: Invites to all three Tours in 2019.
  - 150 to 174 Hearthstone Competitive points: Invites to up to two Tours of the player's choice in 2019.
  - 120 to 149 Hearthstone Competitive points: Invites to one Tour of the player's choice in 2019.
- vii. Certain players from future Blizzard-ran Hearthstone esports programs as described in any future tournament rules document, as determined in Blizzard's sole discretion.
- viii. Players who have otherwise received an invitation from Blizzard.

### 3.3 Limit One Invitation Per Player Per Tour.

- (a) It is possible for a player to receive invitations for the same Tour tournament from multiple invitation sources. However, players are only allowed one entry per Tour, regardless of the number of invitations they may have received. Tour invitations are also limited to specific Tour tournaments and may not be used to enter any Tour other than the Tour(s) stipulated by the invitation.

### 3.4 Players Must Compete in Person

- (a) All Tour tournaments will be held in person at physical locations designated by Blizzard. Players must be physically present at the dates and location of the respective Tour in order to redeem a Tour invitation and participate. Tour invitations will be forfeited if the player is not physically present on the registration date(s) at the location of the respective Tour. Unless specifically agreed between a player and Blizzard, players are responsible for any and all costs and expenses (including but not limited to travel, lodging, and visa costs) which may be necessary to redeem a Tour invitation or participate in any Tour. All Tour dates and locations will be announced by Blizzard at [www.playhearthstone.com](http://www.playhearthstone.com) prior to the start of the respective Tour's qualifying period.

### 3.5 Tour Registration Requirements.

- (a) All invited players must register in person to participate in any Tour. Tour invitations will be forfeited if the player does not complete registration in person prior to the registration deadline for the respective Tour, or if the player is ineligible to compete in the Tour under the terms of the Handbook at the time of Tour registration. Registration dates, locations, and deadlines will be announced for each Tour at least one week prior at <https://playhearthstone.com/en-us/esports/programs/masters-tour>. In order to complete registration, players must sign a written 2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour Player Participation Agreement and Acceptance Form as provided by Blizzard and provide at least one form of non-expired government-issued photo identification which sufficiently matches the identity of the invited player. Blizzard reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to deny Tour participation to players whose identity is in question.

### 3.6 Minor Players.

- (a) If you are over the age of 13 but under the age of majority (as described in the Handbook), your parent or legal guardian must accompany you to any Tour event that you participate in, and also sign a written 2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour Player Participation Agreement and Acceptance Form as provided by Blizzard upon your registration. Your parent or legal guardian may be required to show proof of guardianship. Blizzard reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to remove minor players from competition who's purported parent or legal guardian cannot show sufficient proof of guardianship.

## 4. MASTERS TOUR EVENTS

### 4.1 Event Schedule and Locations.

- (a) Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will determine the dates, times, and locations for all Tour tournaments. Blizzard will host the following Tour events in 2019:
- i. Masters Tour: Las Vegas, which will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 14 - 16, 2019.
  - ii. Masters Tour: Seoul, which will take place in Seoul, South Korea on August 16 - 18, 2019.
  - iii. Masters Tour: Europe, which will take place at a location to be announced by Blizzard in Europe on dates to be announced by Blizzard. The location and dates for this Tour will be announced on [playhearthstone.com](https://playhearthstone.com) prior to the start of its qualifying period.

## 5. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

### 5.1 Tour Competition in General.

- (a) In Tour tournaments, Blizzard will provide competitors with special player accounts with unlocked *Hearthstone* card collections for the purposes of Tournament play, as described in section 5.2.b of the Handbook (“Tournament Play Accounts”). Players are required to use Tournament Play Accounts for all Tour matches.
- (b) Each Tour will be held on a specific *Hearthstone* server region: Americas, Asia Pacific, or Europe. Players may play in any tournament regardless of their residency, subject to all other residency requirements outlined in these Official Rules and the Handbook.
- (c) Players must compete using standard-format *Hearthstone* decks for all Tour matches. Blizzard may require that Tour matches be played using a specific build of the *Hearthstone* game client which may be different from the patch that is publicly available in *Hearthstone* at the time of the Tour. In such an event, Blizzard will communicate such changes to Tour participants ahead of the respective Tour.
- (d) Tour participants are required to register with tournament administrators on the day before the first day of the Tour. This registration is mandatory and aids tournament planning and operations. In the event that a player fails to register prior to the scheduled time, which can be found on <https://playhearthstone.com/en-us/esports/programs/masters-tour> (click through to the specific Masters Tour events page), late players will be subjected to late registration penalties as outlined in sections 7.6 (a) through (b) of the Handbook and will need to register during the late registration period prior to the start of the Tour. If a player fails to register during both registration periods, Blizzard, in its sole discretion, may allow the player to participate in the Tour with match losses for the rounds that they missed, or may prohibit the player from participating in the Tour entirely.

### 5.2 Competition Structure. Each Tour tournament will be split into three stages of competition to determine winners as follows:

- (e) Day 1 Swiss. Players will be randomly seeded into a modified Swiss-pairing style (“Swiss”) tournament, where they will compete for 7 rounds of Swiss pairings (“Day 1”) as outlined in section 4.4 of the Handbook. Players who fail to achieve 4 or more wins are eliminated from the tournament following the conclusion of Day 1. All matches inside the current round must

be completed at which point all new pairings for the upcoming round will be made based on the results of the previous round. These pairings will be based on the Swiss record of the players. Starting with the players with the best record, players are randomly paired against other players with the same record that they have not played previously in the tournament. If there are no players left with the same record, the remaining player will be paired against a random player with the next best record. This process continues until there are no matches able to be created. Any remaining player receives a bye. Match win ties will be determined by a set of tiebreakers outlined in section 4.4.c of the Handbook.

- (f) Day 2 Swiss. On Day 2 (“Day 2”), players will play 5 more rounds of Swiss. Players will retain their Swiss score from Day 1, but may be paired against previous opponents from Day 1 for the 5 remaining Swiss rounds. For each opponent that a player plays twice, that opponent’s record will contribute to tiebreakers twice.
- (g) Dropping from a Tour. Barring restrictions imposed by Day 1 eliminations, players may continue to play during all Swiss rounds, or be asked to be removed from the tournament (“Dropped”) by contacting the tournament organizer.
- (h) Top Playoff. The Top Playoff will be determined by the players with the best match record after the 12 Swiss rounds. Any players with the same match record will be ranked according to their tie-breakers. This will be a Top 8 Playoff regardless of the amount of participants in the Tour. The Top Playoff will be a Dual Tournament phase followed by a Single Elimination phase as described in section 4.7 and 4.5 of the Handbook respectively. Players will be seeded into the Dual Tournament phase based off their match scores from the Swiss rounds. Specifically, in Group A, seed 1 will play seed 8 and seed 4 will play seed 5; in Group B, seed 2 will play seed 7 and seed 3 will play seed 6. Players that advance from their Dual Tournament groups will be seeded into a Single Elimination bracket where the Seed 1 of Group A will play the Seed 2 of Group B and the Seed 2 of Group A will play the Seed 1 of Group B. The winners of each Single Elimination match will play to determine the winner of the Tour.
- (i) Competition Schedule Changes. For logistical purposes, Blizzard reserves the right to adjust the number of Swiss rounds players play on each day for Day 1 and Day 2, while retaining the same total number of Swiss rounds played and the Day 1 elimination rules. In addition to the above, Blizzard also reserves the right to play some Top Playoff matches during Day 2.



5.3 Press Obligations for Top 8 Players.

- (a) All players who make the Top 8 Playoff of any Tour will be required to fulfil certain press obligations, which may include but not be limited to participating in media interviews as requested by Blizzard. Press obligations will be communicated by Blizzard to players following the determination of the Top 8 Playoffs. The winner of each Tour may have additional interview obligations following the conclusion of the tournament.

5.4 Masters Tour Las Vegas Match Format Specifically.

- (a) The tournament format for Masters Tour Las Vegas is a best of 3 Specialist Format. For a description of this match format, please refer to sections 5.4 and 5.5 of the Handbook.

5.5 Masters Tour Seoul Match Format Specifically.

- (a) The tournament format for Masters Tour Seoul will be announced on playhearthstone.com two weeks prior to the start of the Tour. If no such announcement happens, the format will remain as best of 3 Specialist Format. For a description of this match format, please refer to sections 5.4 and 5.5 of the Handbook.

5.6 Masters Tour Europe Match Format Specifically.

- (a) The tournament format for Masters Tour: Europe will be announced on playhearthstone.com two weeks prior to the start of the Tour. If no such announcement happens prior to the start of the qualifying period, the format will remain the same as the format for Masters Tour Seoul.

5.7 Prize Awards.

- (a) All prizes are non-transferrable and are subject to the prize award terms contained in section 4.8 of the Handbook. The awarding of prizes is void where prohibited or restricted. State and local taxes, including but not limited to VAT, which are associated with the receipt or use of any prizes, are the sole responsibility of the prize winner.
- (b) The top finishers in each Tour will receive the following prizes at minimum (the “Base Prizes”):

Base Prizes	
1st place	\$50,000 USD

2nd place	\$25,000 USD
3rd place	\$15,000 USD
4th place	\$10,000 USD
5th place	\$8,000 USD
6th place	\$7,000 USD
7th place	\$6,000 USD
8th place	\$5,000 USD
Below 8th place, but with a Swiss record of 9 wins	\$3,000 USD per player
Below 8th place, but with a Swiss record of 8 wins	\$1,000 USD per player
Below 8th place, but with a Swiss record of 7 wins	\$500 USD per player

- (c) In the event that the sum of the Base Prizes awarded for any Tour does not equal at least \$250,000 USD, Blizzard will award additional prizing to the players in such Tour who finish with a Swiss record of at least 7 wins using the following formula (“Bonus Prizes”):
- i. Sum up the total Base Prizes for such Tour placement using the table in section 5.7(b) above and the actual number of players in each place who qualify for a prize. This figure is the “Base Prize Total.”
  - ii. Express the Base Prize payout for each individual player in the Tour as a percentage of the Base Prize Total. This is each player’s “Bonus Prize Percentage”.
  - iii. Subtract the Base Prize Total from \$250,000 USD. This figure is the “Bonus Prize Total.”
  - iv. For each player, multiply the player’s Bonus Prize Percentage by the Bonus Prize Total, then round such figure to the nearest whole cent. This figure is each player’s “Bonus Prize” (referred to collectively for all players as “Bonus Prizes”).
- (d) Any player in the top 8 of a Tour and any player outside of the top 8 with a Swiss record of 9 or more wins, in addition to the prizes outlined above, will also receive invitations to compete in the next two Tour tournaments (provided such Tour tournaments are hosted by Blizzard). In the event that Blizzard hosts “Hearthstone Masters Tour” tournaments in 2020 which are substantially similar to the 2019 Tour tournaments, such invitations will carry over into the 2020 Hearthstone Masters Tour program.

- (e) In addition to the prizes described above, Blizzard will provide additional cash prizing for each Tour by contributing fifty percent (50%) of the actual revenue received from the sale of a special digital item bundle to be announced by Blizzard, up to a maximum total of \$750,000 (“Crowdfunded Prizing”). Blizzard will announce details for Crowdfunded Prizing at <http://playhearthstone.com> at least one week prior to the Masters Tour Las Vegas event. Revenue earned for Crowdfunded Prizing will be equally divided between the three Tour events, up to a maximum of \$250,000 in Crowdfunded Prizing per Tour. Crowdfunded Prizing will be awarded to Tour participants as follows:
- i. Each eligible Tour participant who successfully checks into the Tour on site prior to the announced registration deadline will be awarded an equal percentage of the respective Tour’s Crowdfunded Prizing, rounded to the nearest whole cent, up to a maximum of \$500 per participant. Any remaining Crowdfunded Prizing for such Tour will be considered “Crowdfunded Top 8 Prizing.”
  - ii. Any Crowdfunded Top 8 Prizing for any Tour will be divided between the players who finish in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place in such Tour based on each such player’s Bonus Prize Percentage, rounded to the nearest whole cent.

5.8 Promotion to Blizzard’s Grandmasters Program.

- (a) In the event that Blizzard hosts a “Hearthstone Grandmasters” tournament in 2020 which is substantially similar to the 2019 Grandmasters tournament (“2020 Grandmasters”), certain Tour players may become eligible for selection to participate in 2020 Grandmasters as described below.
- (b) Following the conclusion of 2019 Grandmasters, the 2019 Grandmasters players who finishes in last place in each of the six divisions at the end of Season 2 of 2019 Grandmasters will becomes at risk for relegation from Grandmasters 2020 (“Player(s) At Risk of Relegation”). For reference, the 2019 Grandmasters tournament rules are located at [blizz.ly/HSrules](http://blizz.ly/HSrules).
- (c) Following the conclusion of 2019 Grandmasters and all 2019 Tour tournaments, all players who have earned monetary prizes from 2019 Tour tournaments will be ranked in descending order based on the monetary value of the Base Prizes which they have earned across all three Tours (“Earned Cash Ranking”). For the avoidance of doubt, Bonus Prizes and Crowdfunded Prizing will not be considered in the calculation of Earned Cash Ranking. The top two players

by Earned Cash Rankings in each of the Americas, Europe, and Asia-Pacific regions (as defined by the regional country lists in the Glossary) will become eligible for selection to participate in 2020 Grandmasters (“Candidate(s) for Promotion”). Players from outside the Americas, Europe, and Asia-Pacific regions as defined by the regional country lists in the Glossary are not eligible to become Candidate(s) for Promotion unless otherwise notified by Blizzard.

- (d) If a Candidate for Promotion is unable, unwilling, or unfit based on past personal and/or competitive conduct (as determinable in Blizzard’s sole discretion) to join 2020 Grandmasters, the candidacy for promotion passes down to the third place player by Earned Cash Ranking from the region, and so on until there exists two Candidates for Promotion in each of the Americas, Europe, and Asia-Pacific regions.
- (e) Since 2019 Grandmasters players will be invited to participate in all 2019 Tours, it is possible that a Player At Risk of Relegation is also a Candidate for Promotion. In this case, this player is simultaneously relegated and promoted for Grandmasters 2020.
- (f) Provided that the 2020 Grandmasters takes place, Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will choose players to replace the Players At Risk of Relegation from the pool of Candidates for Promotion. Becoming a Candidate for Promotion does not automatically grant an invitation to compete in 2020 Grandmasters. All invitations for 2020 Grandmasters will be issued in Blizzard’s sole discretion, and may be subject to additional terms, conditions, and requirements.

## **6. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **6.1 Changes to these Official Rules.**

- (a) These Official Rules and the Handbook contain the rules, policies, and procedures for all Tours that are in effect at the time of their publication. All previously issued rules, policies and practices (other than the Website Terms), whether in print or online, relating to the Tours are superseded.
- (b) Blizzard reserves the right, subject to the approval of the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux, to revise, modify, change, delete or add to these Official Rules at any time, in its sole discretion, and to suspend, cancel or modify any Tour or any player’s participation in any Tour should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond

Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of any Tour, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running the Tours as planned.

6.2 Communications.

- (a) We both agree that these Official Rules and the Handbook together constitute a written agreement entered into by both you and Blizzard under applicable law.
- (b) To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, these Official Rules, and any other notices, requests and other communications provided for herein, may be provided to you electronically, and you agree to receive all such communications from Blizzard electronic form. Electronic communications will be delivered to you at the email address listed on your Battle.net Account.
- (c) If you have any questions or comments about these Official Rules or Tours, please email them to [HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com](mailto:HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com) or send written questions to: **2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 93623.**

## 7. GLOSSARY

“**Americas**” means Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

“**Asia-Pacific**” means Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

“**Blizzard**”, “**we**” or “**us**” means Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. and its affiliates.

“**Blizzard Group**” means Blizzard, its parent and any of their respective affiliate companies and subsidiaries.

“**Europe**” means Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

“**Handbook**” means the 2019 Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook, which among other things, establishes the rules of tournament play, including rules governing player eligibility, tournament structure, point structures, prize awards, sponsorships, player conduct, etc.

“**Official Rules**” means the 2019 Hearthstone Masters Tour Official Competition Rules (i.e., the terms as set forth in this document).

“**Website Terms**” means the Battle.net® End User License Agreement applicable to your use of Battle.net, the Online Privacy Policy applicable to your use of Battle.net, and the other terms and conditions governing use of the Battle.net website. The current version of the End User License Agreement for US and Canadian Battle.net account holders is found at <http://us.blizzard.com/en-us/company/legal/eula.html> and the current version of the Online Privacy Policy for US and Canadian Battle.net account holders is found at <http://us.blizzard.com/en-us/company/about/privacy.html>.