



2018/2019 HEARTHSTONE® CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR
OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

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1. INTRODUCTION

These 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour Official Competition Rules (“Official Rules”) govern qualification for and competitive play of Hearthstone in the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour (“HCT” or “Tour”).

These Official Rules, in conjunction with the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook (the “Handbook”), establish the rules of tournament play, including rules governing player eligibility, tournament structure, point structures, prize awards, sponsorships, player conduct, etc.

You must accept these Official Rules and register your acknowledgement of the Handbook in order to participate in the Tour, as well as abiding by these Official Rules and adhere to the terms of the Handbook in order to remain eligible to play in the Tour and receive prizes. Official Rules are explained below. The Handbook can be found here: blizz.ly/HSrules

2. HEARTHSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

2.1. Acceptance of the Official Rules.

- (a) You may accept these rules by signing or accepting a Player Participation Form, either in print or online. You also indicate your acceptance to these Official Rules if you enter and participate in any game or match that is part of the Tour.
- (b) If you are under the age of majority (as described in the Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook), your parent or legal guardian may 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 the Tour.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Regional Eligibility.

- (a) For portions of the tour that limit participation to residents of that region (“Region Limited

Tournament”), you may participate in those portions of the tour only if you are a resident of that region. For portions of the tour that are international, you may participate in those portions of the tour if you are a resident of any of the three regions (Americas, Asia-Pacific, or Europe). The section below explains what countries are a part of each region.

- (b) You may participate in the Americas portion of the Tour if, as of January 1, 2018 you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: United States, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- (c) You may participate in the Asia-Pacific portion of the Tour if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- (d) You may participate in the Europe portion of the Tour if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: 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.
- (e) Eligibility, residency requirements, minimum age requirements and ineligible players are further described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document.

3.2. Resolving Multiple Regional Eligibility.

- (a) Players may not participate in Region Limited Tournaments in multiple regions. Players who meet eligibility requirements in multiple regions need to declare to tournament officials the region in which they elect to participate. This declaration lasts for the duration of the Tour.

4. TOUR QUALIFICATION EVENTS

4.1. Tour Period.

- (a) Qualification for the Tour shall commence on January 1, 2018, at approximately 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, and is expected to conclude on November 30, 2018.
- (b) The Tour shall commence on January 1, 2018 at approximately 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time and is

expected to conclude on March 31st, 2019.

- (c) During the Tour Period, players qualify for the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship in two ways:
 - by participating in Seasonal Championships; or
 - by being a Regional Points Leader
- (d) Players qualify for the Seasonal Championships by participating in the Regional Seasonal Playoffs.
- (e) There are multiple ways to qualify for the Regional Seasonal Playoffs:
 - Placing in the top 8 in the Challenger Finals tournament as described in section 4.6 below.
 - Attaining a sufficient amount of Hearthstone Competitive Points (“points”) by the end of the Season, as described in section 4.3 below.
 - Holding a three-star master tier for the current Season, as described in section 4.11 below.

4.2. HCT Seasons

- (a) The Tour Period is comprised of three seasons: Season 1, Season 2 and Season 3. The start and end dates for each Season are outlined below:

Tour Seasons	
Season 1	January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018
Season 2	April 1, 2018 – July 31, 2018
Season 3	August 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018

4.3. Hearthstone Competitive Points.

- (a) While participating in the HCT, players are able to earn Hearthstone Competitive Points (“points”). Points are earned based on performance, with better results awarding more points.
- (b) A player will be able to earn points during the Tour Period by:
 - Engaging in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladder within the game client;
 - Competing in Hearthstone Championship Tour Stops;
 - Competing in the Regional Seasonal Playoffs;
 - Competing in the Seasonal Championship Tournaments; and

- Competing in the 2017 Hearthstone World Championship.
- (c) Over the course of the Tour Period, each player will accumulate points for three seasons: Season 1 points, Season 2 points, and Season 3 points. Each season, points accumulate during that particular season. This is called the players seasonal points total. All tournaments that end within a season contribute to that season's seasonal points total.
- (d) For the purposes of invitations to the Season 1 Playoffs, the 2017 Hearthstone World Championship will award points in addition to all tournaments ending during Season 1 that award points. For the purposes of invitations to the Season 2 Playoffs, Season 1 Playoffs and Championships will award points in addition to all tournaments ending during Season 2. For the purposes of invitations to the Season 3 Playoffs, Season 2 Playoffs and Championships will award points in addition to all tournaments ending during Season 3. This is summarized in the table below:

Point Awards	
Season 1 Playoffs Invitation	2017 Hearthstone World Championship; and any tournament ending during Season 1.
Season 2 Playoffs Invitation	Season 1 Playoffs; Season 1 Championships; and any tournament ending during Season 2.
Season 3 Playoffs Invitation	Season 2 Playoffs; Season 2 Championships; and any tournament ending during Season 3.

4.4. Ranked Play.

- (a) A player will be awarded points based on his/her standing in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladders at the end of each Standard Ranked Play Season during the Tour.
- (b) Each player who finishes a Standard Ranked Play Season at Legend rank or better will earn the following points:

Ranked Play	
1st Place	16 points
2nd - 25th Places	15 points

26th - 50th Places	12 points
51th - 100th Places	9 points
101st - 200th Places	6 points
201 st -500 th Places	4 points
501 st -1000 th Places	2 points
1001 st and below Places	1 point

- (c) A player may only earn points from a single in-game Hearthstone Ladder per Standard Ranked Play Season, but the points they earn will be based off their highest placement on the Americas, Asia, or Europe in-game Hearthstone Ladders. Points are awarded based on a player's standing in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladders at the end of each Standard Ranked Play Season may be revoked at Blizzard's discretion. Situations that might lead to such an action could include where a player engages in account sharing, boosting, win trading, etc., or where points were incorrectly assigned to the player.
- (d) A player's best three (out of possible four) ladder finishes will count towards their seasonal point total.

4.5. Hearthstone Championship Tour Stops.

- (a) A Hearthstone Championship Tour Stop is an event operated by either Blizzard or a third party that awards points. Blizzard will post any Hearthstone Championship Tour Stops that it approves on www.playhearthstone.com/esports.
- (b) Players who finish in the top thirty-two at a Hearthstone Tour Stop will earn the following points:

Hearthstone Tour Stops	
1st Place	15 points
2nd Place	12 points
3rd - 4th Places	10 points
5th - 8th Places	8 points
9 th - 16 th Places	6 points

17 th – 32 nd Places	4 points
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4.6. HCT Challengers.

- (a) HCT Challengers is a tournament series that consists of Tavern Hero Qualifiers, Challenger Cups and Challenger Finals. HCT Challengers qualifies players to participate in the Hearthstone Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments.
- (b) This tournament series is only open to players who have not won a Challenger Finals Tournament, or otherwise qualified for the Seasonal Regional Playoff tournament within the last three consecutive seasons including the current season.
- (c) Blizzard will designate certain Fireside Gatherings as Tavern Hero Qualifiers (which are tournaments held at Fireside Gathering locations). The winners of these tournaments will be able to enter into their next Regional Seasonal Challenger Finals, placed into the first part as described below in section 5.2.
- (d) Blizzard will designate certain online tournaments as Challenger Cups. The winners of these tournament will be able to enter into their next Regional Seasonal Challenger Finals, placed into the first part as described below in section 5.2.
- (e) Any event operated by a third party that grants entry to the Blizzard-ran HCT must follow the Blizzard-approved criteria, which are listed at PlayHearthstone.com, and must submit all information to the Blizzard esports team for review and acceptance. Blizzard will post any qualification-awarding Fireside Gathering Tournament on Firesidegatherings.com.

4.7. Hearthstone Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments.

- (a) Seasonal Playoff Tournaments are Region Limited Tournament. Each region will have a Seasonal Playoff Tournament, which is open only to players from that Region.
- (b) Each Season and Region will have an announced points target prior for the beginning of the Season on www.playhearthstone.com. All players who reach the point total that meets or exceeds the target in their region are invited to play in the Seasonal Playoffs for the season in their region. If the number of invited players via the HC Point target is less than 64 players, Blizzard will instead invite players using the following mechanism:
 - Blizzard will rank players in descending order from highest to lowest HC Point earners;
 - Blizzard will then invite the top 64 ranked HC Point earners;

- In addition, Blizzard will extend invites to all players with the same amount of points as the 64th ranked player, even if the amount of players invited would exceed 64 players.

- (c) As described further below, participants in each of the Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments for the 2018 year will earn the following points:

Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments	
1 st – 4 th Places	0 points
5 th Place	11 points
6 th Place	10 points
7 th Place	9 points
8 th Place	8 points
9 th – 16 th Places	7 points
17 th – 32 nd Places	6 points

- (d) Players finishing 1st through 4th place at the Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments do not receive points, because they are invited to play in the Seasonal Championship Tournaments and receive points there.

4.8. Hearthstone Seasonal Championship.

- (a) As described further below, participants in each of the three Seasonal Championship Tournaments for the 2018 year will earn the following points:

Seasonal Championship Tournaments	
1st Place	30 points
2nd Place	25 points
3rd - 4th Places	20 points
5th - 8th Places	15 points
9th - 16th Places	12 Points

- (b) If a player places in the top 4 of a Seasonal Championship that has already earned a berth to the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship then the 5th-8th place players play out a seeded best of five (5) conquest with a ban, single elimination, tournament between the four (4) of them. The winner is then awarded a berth to the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship.

4.9. Hearthstone World Championship.

- (a) Players who earn a berth to, and compete in, the 2017 Hearthstone World Championship will earn the following points:

World Championship	
1st Place	20 points
2nd Place	15 points
3rd - 4th Places	10 points
5 th -8 th Places	6 points
9 th -16 th Places	4 points

4.10. Regional Points Leader.

- (a) The player who has the highest combined seasonal points total for Season 1, Season 2 and Season 3 at the end of Season 3 in their region (Americas, Asia-Pacific, China, and Europe) and who has not already qualified for the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship, will earn a berth in the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship.
- (b) In the event of a tie in the highest amount of points in a region, the players who tied will play against each other in a Best of 5 Conquest with a ban match to determine who earns the Last Call berth to the 2018 HCT World Championship. If more than two (2) players tie, then Blizzard Esports will determine the match format to be played to determine who receives the berth.
- (c) The Regional Point Leader berthed players will receive a prize that consists of round trip coach air fare to, and lodging at, the site of the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship. The approximate value of this prize is 2,000.00 USD. In addition, Regional Point Leader players will receive the following prizes based on their Regional Point Leader standings:

Regional Point Leader	
1st Place	USD 10,000
2nd Place	USD 5,000
3rd - 4th Places	USD 2,500

4.11. Hearthstone Masters.

- (a) The HCT will recognize top players based on their performance over time through the Hearthstone Masters program. The Hearthstone Masters program has three tiers. Tiers are based on the rolling sum of a player's seasonal points total for the last three seasons. Points for the Hearthstone Masters program start to accumulate with Season 1.
- (b) Each tier will have a target that a player must reach to be granted that tier. Blizzard will publish tier targets no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of each season on www.playhearthstone.com/esports.
- (c) Tiers are granted on the first day of each season, so benefits will last for four full months.
- (d) Players receive the following benefits for each tier:

Master Tiers	
Three-star Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite to Seasonal Regional Playoff.• USD 2500 appearance bonus for up to three tour stops per Season.• Invite to monthly online tournaments.• End of year commemorative items.
Two-star Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USD 1000 appearance bonus for one tour stop per Season.• Invite to monthly online tournaments.• End of year commemorative items.
One-star Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite to monthly online tournaments.• End of year commemorative items.

5. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

5.1. Tournament Rules.

- (a) Hearthstone HCT tournaments are governed by these Official Rules and the terms contained in the Handbook.
- (b) For all Tour matches, each player will use Hearthstone card decks that he/she has created (using cards he/she has collected) in the region's servers where the tournament is held. Card decks created on other regions' servers are not eligible for play in Tour matches, unless a different

ruling is decided by the Blizzard Esports team.

5.2. Seasonal Playoff Tournaments Generally.

- (a) Seasonal Playoff Tournaments are Region Limited Tournament. Each region will have a Seasonal Playoff Tournament, which is open only to players from that Region.
- (b) Players qualify for each Seasonal Playoff Tournament in the following ways:
 - The players from the HCT Challengers tournaments as detailed in section 4.6.
 - The invited players who reached the point target for that particular season as detailed in section 4.7; and
 - Automatically invited three-star master tier players as detailed in section 4.11
- (c) For the Seasonal Playoff Tournaments, a player may compete at the location that is most convenient (from among those Blizzard designates), but each player will be matched against his or her opponent based on pairings regardless of where in their region the players are physically located.
- (d) Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will determine the dates, times and locations for the Seasonal Playoff Tournaments.
- (e) All players must attend one of the live events to participate in their Seasonal Playoff Tournaments. Blizzard will distribute invitations to their Seasonal Playoff Tournaments by email to players who qualify no less than a week before the dates of each of the Seasonal Playoff Tournaments.
- (f) Players will be randomly seeded into a standard Swiss-pairing style (“Swiss”) tournament, where they will compete over the internet for 7 rounds of Swiss pairings to determine the eight best finishers based on match scores and tiebreakers (“Round of Eight”). 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 through their Season 1 Playoff Tournaments. 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. Ties will be determined by a set of tie breakers determined by the organizer.

- (g) The Round of Eight will be determined by the 8 players with the best Swiss match record. Any players with the same match record will be ranked according to their tie-breakers. The Round of Eight is a single elimination 8 player playoff round. Players will be seeded into the playoff round based off their match scores from the Swiss rounds. Specifically, seed 1 will play seed 8, seed 2 will play seed 7, seed 3 will play seed 6 and seed 4 will play seed 5. The winners of each of the single elimination rounds will earn a berth into the Seasonal Championship Tournament.
- (h) The players in each Seasonal Playoff Tournament will earn the following prizes:

Seasonal Playoffs			
1 st – 4 th Places	Invite to Seasonal Championships	12 th place	USD 3,500
5 th place	USD 6,000	13 th place	USD 3,250
6 th place	USD 5,500	14 th place	USD 3,000
7 th place	USD 5,000	15 th place	USD 2,750
8 th place	USD 4,500	16 th place	USD 2,500
9 th place	USD 4,250	17 th – 24 th places	USD 1,500
10 th place	USD 4,000	25 th – 32 nd places	USD 1,250
11 th place	USD 3,750	33 rd and lower places	USD 1,000

5.3. Seasonal Championship Tournaments Generally.

- (a) The Seasonal Championship Tournaments will consist of sixteen players. Four players from the Americas Seasonal Playoff Tournament, four players from the Europe Seasonal Playoff Tournament, four players from the Asia-Pacific Seasonal Playoff Tournament, and four players from the China Hearthstone Game Region as determined by Blizzard Entertainment. For the Round of Sixteen, Blizzard may, in its sole discretion, choose to provide lodging and transportation for the players who reach the Round of Sixteen to a location where the players will compete in a studio, ‘off line,’ to determine the winner of the Seasonal Championship Tournament. For the Round of Sixteen, the players will be divided into four groups of four players each to participate in a dual-tournament group stage. Each group will be seeded according to the player’s results from the Seasonal Playoffs and the player’s Seasonal points rank, with better results providing a player a higher seeding in the Round of Sixteen.

- (b) Participants who qualify for the Round of Sixteen will be seeded into a group stage based on their results from the Seasonal Playoffs and their points rank, with four dual-tournament groups of four players each. In the Round of Sixteen dual-tournament group stage, the sixteen players will be divided into four groups of four based on their Seasonal Playoffs results and Seasonal points rank, with each group consisting of a top seed from one of the four regions. Each group will also contain a second seed, third seed, and fourth seed all from different regions so that the final composition of the four groups will have one representative from each region (Americas, Asia- Pacific, China, and Europe) and one first, second, third, and fourth seeded player.
- (c) The regional seeding for the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe region's will be determined by who finished first, second, third, and fourth in their regions Seasonal Playoff. First place will get first seed, second place second seed, third and fourth seeds will be determined by their Seasonal points rank with the higher point earner between them being awarded the third seed and the lower point earner between them being awarded the fourth seed.
- (d) Each group of four will compete in its own dual tournament stage. The highest-seeded player in each group will initially play the lowest seeded player in the group (Match A) and the two middle-seeded players will initially play each other (Match B). These two matches are called Initial Matches. The players who do not win their Initial Match are placed into the Elimination Match. The players who win their Initial Match advance to the Winner's Match.
- (e) The winning players of each of the Initial Matches will play each other (Match C). This is called the Winner's Match. The player who does not win the Winner's Match is placed into the Decider Match. The player who wins the Winner's Match advances out of the group stage to the Round of Eight.
- (f) The players who did not win the Initial Matches (Match A and Match B) face each other in the Elimination Match (Match D). The player who does not win the Elimination Match is eliminated. The player who wins the Elimination Match advances to the Decider Match.
- (g) The player who did not win the Winner's Match (Match C) and the player who won the Elimination Match (Match D) face each other. This is called the Decider Match (Match E). The player who does not win the Decider Match is eliminated. The player who wins the Decider Match advances out of the group stage to the Round of Eight.
- (h) The Round of Eight will consist of a single-elimination bracket until the Seasonal Champion is crowned.

- (i) Matches during Seasonal Championship Tournament will play a best of five, Conquest with 1 ban format with five classes per player each match. Details on tournament formats are outlined in the Hearthstone Tournament Policy document.
- (j) The top 4 players from each of the three Seasonal Championship Tournaments will earn berths into the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship, which includes round trip coach air fare to, and lodging at, the site of the 2018 Hearthstone World Championship.
- (k) The players in each Seasonal Championship Tournament will earn the following prizes:

Seasonal Championship	
1st Place	USD 50,000
2nd Place	USD 40,000
3rd - 4th Places	USD 25,000
5 th -8 th Places	USD 12,500
9 th -16 th Places	USD 7,500

5.4. Hearthstone World Championship Generally.

- (a) The World Championship will consist of sixteen players. Initially, the players will be divided into four groups of four players each to participate in a dual-tournament group stage. Each group will be seeded according to the player's results from the Seasonal Championship and the player's Seasonal points rank, with better results providing a player a higher seeding in the Round of Sixteen. Regional Points Leader ranking and seeding will be determined using the Regional Points Leader point values among the four players that qualify for Regional Points Leader.
- (b) Each group of four will compete in its own dual tournament stage. The highest-seeded player in each group will initially play the lowest seeded player in the group (Match A) and the two middle-seeded players will initially play each other (Match B). These two matches are called Initial Matches. The players who do not win their Initial Match are placed into the Elimination Match. The players who win their Initial Match advance to the Winner's Match.
- (c) The winning players of each of the Initial Matches will play each other (Match C). This is called the Winner's Match. The player who does not win the Winner's Match is placed into the Decider

Match. The player who wins the Winner's Match advances out of the group stage to the Round of Eight.

- (d) The players who did not win the Initial Matches (Match A and Match B) face each other in the Elimination Match (Match D). The player who does not win the Elimination Match is eliminated. The player who wins the Elimination Match advances to the Decider Match.
- (e) The player who did not win the Winner's Match (Match C) and the player who won the Elimination Match (Match D) face each other. This is called the Decider Match (Match E). The player who does not win the Decider Match is eliminated. The player who wins the Decider Match advances out of the group stage to the Round of Eight.
- (f) The Round of Eight will consist of a single-elimination bracket until the World Champion is crowned.
- (g) Matches during the Hearthstone World Championships will play a best of five, Conquest with 1 ban format with five classes per player each match. Details on tournament formats are outlined in the Hearthstone Tournament Policy document.
- (h) The players in the Hearthstone World Championship will earn the following prizes:

Hearthstone World Championship	
1st Place	USD 250,000
2nd Place	USD 150,000
3rd - 4th Places	USD 100,000
5 th -8 th Places	USD 50,000
9 th -16 th Places	USD 25,000

5.5. Season 1 Playoff Tournaments Specifics.

- (a) The Season 1 points will be earned during the Season 1 Point Earning period (January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018).
- (b) The HC point target for Season 1 is 45 points.

5.6. Season 2 Playoff Tournaments Specifics.

- (a) The Season 2 points will be earned during the Season 2 Point Earning period (April 1st, 2018 to July 31st 2018).
- (b) The HC point target for Season 2 will be announced on www.playhearthstone.com/esports no later than two weeks prior to Season 2 start.

5.7. Season 3 Playoff Tournaments Specifics.

- (a) The Season 3 points will be earned during the Season 3 Point Earning period (August 1st, 2018 to November 30th 2018).
- (b) The HC point target for Season 2 will be announced on www.playhearthstone.com/esports no later than two weeks prior to Season 2 start.

5.8. Prize Awards.

- (a) For terms and conditions relating to the awarding of Tournament prizing, see Section 4.8 of the Handbook.

5.9. Travel and Expenses.

- (a) Blizzard will, at its cost, make the travel arrangements for those players who qualify for sponsored travel under these Official Rules and pay the expenses to the vendor directly. The travel expenses of players will not be reimbursed. All Blizzard-sponsored travel must take place on the dates and times that Blizzard specifies.
- (b) For a player to qualify for participation in any in-person game or match that is part of the Tour, that player must have all the necessary visas, passports and other travel documents required to travel to and work in countries where live Tour events will be held. Failure to have the necessary visas, passports and other travel documents required to travel to and work in a country where a live Tour event will be held will result in disqualification for that particular live Tour event.
- (c) All players are responsible for any and all costs and expenses associated with their participation

in the Tour and receipt of any prize that are not specifically designated as the responsibility of Blizzard in these Official Rules.

- (d) Should a player who qualifies for participation in any in-person game or match that is part of the Tour be a minor under applicable law, a parent or legal guardian will be required to travel on the same itinerary with the minor player, and shall be responsible for all of his or her own travel and accommodation costs, including transportation and accommodation costs and any cost or expense associated with obtaining the necessary visas, passports or other travel documents.

6. PLAYER CONDUCT

6.1. Player Conduct.

- (a) Player conduct, rule infractions, penalties and disciplinary procedures for the 2018 Hearthstone Championship Tour are governed by the terms contained in the Handbook.

7. GENERAL (BUT IMPORTANT) TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Changes to these Official Rules.

- (a) These Official Rules and the Handbook contain the rules, policies and practices of the Blizzard for the Tour 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 Tour 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 the Tour or any player's participation in the Tour should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of the Tour, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running the Tour as planned.
- (c) Due to server capacity and other technical limitations beyond the control of Blizzard, Blizzard reserves the right to limit the number of players in the Tour.

7.2 Communications.

- (a) We both agree that these Official Rules and the Handbook together constitute a written agreement signed 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 the Tour, please email them to HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com or send written questions to: **2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 93623.**

11. GLOSSARY

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

“Battle.net Account” means a full Battle.net account registered on Blizzard’s America Battle.net service that is in good standing and that remains in good standing throughout the Tour. “Battle.net Account” does not refer to a Battle.net light account; a light account is not sufficient for participation in the Tour.

“Battle.net lite account” means a version of Battle.net that mobile users can create without accepting the Battle.net End User License Agreement.

“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.

“Commencement Date” means January 1, 2018, at approximately 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

“Challenger Cups” refers to online tournaments that are part of the HCT Challengers series and qualify players for Challenger Finals.

“Challenger Finals” refers to online tournaments that are part of the HCT Challengers series and qualify player for Seasonal Playoffs.

“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.

“Fireside Gathering Tournament” means a tournament operated by a third party that awards points, that follows the Blizzard-approved criteria, and that Blizzard has designated as a Fireside Gathering Tournament.

“Handbook” means the 2018 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.

“HCT Challengers” refers to the tournament series that is open to players who have not qualified for Playoffs for the last three consecutive seasons. This tournament series consists of Tavern Hero Qualifiers, Challenger Cups and the Regional Challenger Finals.

“Hearthstone Ladder” means the in-game Standard Monthly Ladder that exists inside the Hearthstone Game Client

“Hearthstone Championship Tour Stop” means a tournament operated by a third party that awards points, that follows the Blizzard-approved criteria, and that Blizzard has designated as a Hearthstone Championship Tour Stop Tournament.

“Master Player Status” means a player who in the last three Seasons achieved a point target to be labeled one of the three statuses: three-star master player, two-star master player, or one-star master player.

“Official Rules” means the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour Official Competition Rules (*i.e.*, the terms as set forth this document).

“Points rank” refers to the standings of players based on the Hearthstone Competitive Points they have earned toward their points rank from, for example, engaging in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladder or competing in certain HCT tournaments.

“Regional Points Leader” means the top points earner in the 2018 Tournament Year (*i.e.*, between January 1st 2018 and November 31st 2018).

“Seasonal Championship Tournament” means the Hearthstone Season 1 Championship, Hearthstone Season 2 Championship, or Hearthstone Season 3 Championship.

“Seasonal Playoff” means the preliminary rounds of a Seasonal Championship Tournament (prior to the Round of Eight).

“Seasonal Points rank” refers to a points rank that will reflect only the points accumulated during that particular Season (Season 1, Season 2, or Season 3).

“Season 1” refers to tournament activity between January 1st 2018 and March 31st 2018.

“Season 2” refers to tournament activity between April 1st 2018 and July 31st 2018.

“Season 3” refers to tournament activity between August 1st 2018 and November 30th 2018.

“Tavern Hero” means a winner of a Tavern Hero Fireside Gathering Tournament.

“Tavern Hero Fireside Gathering Tournament” means a Fireside Gathering Tournament that Blizzard has designated as an event that awards a berth to a Season Championship Tournament.

“Tour” means the 2018 Hearthstone Championship Tour. The Tour includes the Seasonal Championship Tournaments, the Regional Points Leaders, and other tournaments in which you can earn points, such as HCT Tour Stop Tournaments, and certain Fireside Gathering Tournaments.

“Tour Events” means all games, matches, media events, autograph signings, photo sessions, sponsor events and other gatherings or events occurring with or as part of the Tour.

“Tour Period” means the period starting on the Commencement Date and continuing through the end of the Tour period, which is expected to conclude on or about November 31, 2018.

“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>.

“Your Brand Materials” means your name, nickname, BattleTag, logo, initials, likeness, image, photograph, animation, autograph, voice, public persona, biographical information and backstory.

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