



2019 HEARTHSTONE® MASTERS TOUR QUALIFIERS
OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES V1.1

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1. INTRODUCTION

These 2019 Hearthstone Masters Qualifiers Official Competition Rules (“Official Rules”) govern competitive play of *Hearthstone* in all 2019 Hearthstone Masters Qualifier Tournaments (“Qualifier(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, point structures, prize awards, sponsorships, player conduct, etc. The Handbook can be found here: 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. In order to participate in any Qualifier, you must agree to the terms contained in these Official Rules and the Handbook. You must also abide by these Official Rules and adhere to the terms of the Handbook in order to remain eligible to play in the Qualifiers and receive prizes.

2. HEARTHSTONE MASTERS QUALIFIERS

2.1 Acceptance of the Official Rules.

- (a) You acknowledge your acceptance of these Official Rules by:
 - (i) signing or accepting a player participation form, either in print or online; or
 - (ii) entering or participating in any game or match that is part of any Qualifier.
- (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 the Qualifiers.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Regional Eligibility.

- (a) You may participate in any tournament designated as a Qualifier in any region if, as of January 1, 2019 you are a legal resident of one of the following countries: 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, 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 Qualifier so long as your participation does not violate applicable local laws.

3.2 Invited Player Eligibility.

- (a) Players who have already been invited to the Masters Tour for which the Master Qualifier grants an invite may not participate in a Qualifier for that Master Tour.

3.3 Eligibility Requirements under the Handbook.

- (a) You may only participate in a Qualifier if you meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the Handbook.

4. QUALIFIERS EVENTS

4.1 Qualifier Period.

- (a) Players must receive an invitation to compete in a Hearthstone Masters Tour tournament (“Tour(s)”). Tours will take place at physical locations around the world. One of the ways to receive an invitation to a Tour is to win a Qualifier tournament.

- (b) Each Qualifier will grant an invitation to one of the three 2019 Tours depending on when the Qualifier takes place. Each Tour will have a separate qualifying period in which Qualifiers will occur.
- (c) Qualifying periods for each of the Tours and their start and end dates are outlined below:

Tour Qualifying Periods	
Masters Tour Las Vegas	March 1, 2019 – April 30, 2019
Masters Tour Asia	May 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019
Masters Tour Europe	July 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019

- (d) In the event that a Qualifier takes place across two qualifying periods in any time zone, the Qualifier will award Tour invitations based on the title of the Qualifier as posted on Battlefy.com.
- (e) Blizzard may alter the schedule of any Qualifier event and any Tour qualification period in its sole discretion. Any change to a qualification period will be communicated publicly by Blizzard.

5. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

5.1 Tournament Rules.

- (a) Qualifier tournaments are governed by these Official Rules and the terms contained in the Handbook.
- (b) For all Qualifier matches, each player will use Hearthstone card decks (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 Qualifier matches.

5.2 Qualifiers Generally.

- (a) Each individual Qualifier tournament is 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 this document and the Handbook.

- (b) Most Qualifier tournaments will be held online via the internet at <http://battlefy.com/HSESports>. Select Qualifiers will occur at physical locations designated by Blizzard. Players must sign up for a free account at Battlefy.com in order to participate in any Qualifier.
- (c) Players must sign up to play in Qualifiers using the Battlefy.com platform on a first come, first serve basis.
- (d) Qualifiers signups will be posted periodically on Battlefy.com. Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will determine the dates, times and locations for all Qualifier tournaments. Blizzard may periodically rescheduled or canceled Qualifier tournaments due to the unavailability of Battlefy.com, issues with the Hearthstone game client, software patches, and other technical issues which may impact Blizzard's ability to operate the tournament as planned.
- (e) Each Qualifier tournament will require a minimum of 8 players to start. If less than 8 players sign up prior to the start of a Qualifier tournament, the Qualifier tournament will not commence and no prizes will be awarded.
- (f) Each Qualifier tournament has a limited number of entries. Each Qualifier may have a maximum of 224 players.
- (g) Players who register for a Qualifier after 224 players have already registered may be placed on a wait list. Should a registered player fail to check in during the Qualifier check in on time, a waitlisted player may be granted a player spot in the Qualifier, at the discretion of the tournament organizer.
- (h) Players will be randomly seeded into a standard Swiss-pairing style ("Swiss") tournament, where they will compete for a number of rounds of Swiss pairings as outlined in section 4.4.d of the Handbook to determine the top finishers based on match scores and tiebreakers ("Top Playoff"). 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.

- (i) Players may continue to play during all Swiss rounds, or be asked to be removed from the tournament (“Dropped”) by contacting the tournament organizer.
- (j) The Top Playoff will be determined by the players with the best Swiss match record. Any players with the same match record will be ranked according to their tie-breakers. This is typically a Top 8 Playoff, but in certain cases outlined in section 4.4.d of the Handbook may be more or less players. The Top Playoff is a series of single elimination rounds. 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. Other Top Playoff variations prescribed by section 4.4.d of the Handbook will have similar seeding with the strongest seed playing the weakest, and so on. The winners of each of the single elimination rounds will advance in the bracket to play each other until there is a tournament winner.
- (k) Players may register for multiple Qualifier tournaments, but may not actively participate in multiple Qualifier tournaments. Players must be dropped from an active Qualifier tournament prior to starting round 1 of another Qualifier tournament.

5.3 Qualifiers Prizes.

- (a) The top finishers in each Qualifier tournament will earn prizes as set forth in the chart below, subject to the number of players in the Qualifier. If any Qualifier has more prize places than players, the prizes in the places that outnumber the number of players who finish the Qualifier will not be awarded.

Qualifiers Prizes	
Placement	Prize
1st place	20 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$29.90 USD)
2nd place	20 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$29.90 USD)
3rd-4th places	15 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$22.43 USD)

5th-8th places	10 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$14.95 USD)
9th-16th places	5 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$7.475 USD)
17th-32nd places	3 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$4.49 USD)
33rd-64th places	2 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$2.99 USD)
65th-128th	1 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$1.50 USD)

- (b) Additionally, the 1st place finisher in each completed Qualifier will receive one invitation to compete at the Tour associated with the qualifying period in which the respective Qualifier took place (“Tour Invitation(s)”), subject to the terms below. Tour Invitations are redeemable subject to the player eligibility terms contained in the Handbook. Tour Invitations will only grant admission to the Tour associated with the qualifying period in which the respective Qualifier took place, and may not be transferred to another Tour. Players must be physically present at the dates and location of the respective Tour in order to redeem a Tour Invitation. Tour Invitations will be forfeited if the player is not physically present on the registration date(s) and location of 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. 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 playhearthstone.com prior to the start of the respective Tour’s qualifying period.
- (c) All prizes are a non-transferrable and are subject to the prize award terms contained in the Handbook. The awarding of prizes is void where prohibited or restricted. State and local taxes, including VAT taxes which are associated with the receipt or use of any prizes, are the sole responsibility of the prize winner.
- (d) *Hearthstone* card pack prizes will be digitally awarded to the Battle.net account that the player registered for the Qualifier with. *Hearthstone* card pack prizes may be redeemed on any in-game server region.

- (e) Tour Invitations will be awarded to the person whose name is registered on the Battle.net account that the player registered for the Qualifier with, or in case of a minor using their parent's or guardian's Battle.net account, the minor associated with that account. Blizzard, at its sole discretion, may verify the identity associated with a specific Battle.net accounts for the purposes of granting a prize.
- (f) Prior to the start of the finals match, one or both players in the finals may decline the Tour Invitation prize outlined in section 5.3 (b) in writing to the tournament officials. Declining the Tour Invitation allows players to remain eligible for future Qualifiers in accordance with section 3.2. If one player declines the Tour Invitation, the other player is the 1st place finisher in the tournament. If both players decline the Tour Invitation, the 1st place finisher is the player with the higher Top Playoff seeding of the two players, as outlined in section 5.2 (j). In both cases, players are no longer required to play the finals match.

5.4 Masters Tour: Las Vegas Qualifier Specifically

- (a) The Masters Tour: Las Vegas will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 14 - 16, 2019.
- (b) The tournament format for Masters Tour: Las Vegas Qualifiers is a best of 3 Specialist format. For tournament description, please refer to section 5.5 of the Handbook.
- (c) Schedule of Master Tour: Las Vegas Qualifiers is found here: <http://battlefy.com/HSEsports>. In the event of a discrepancy in the Qualifier schedule posted by Blizzard in any other location, the schedule at this link prevails.

5.5 Masters Tour: Asia Pacific Qualifier Specifically

- (a) The dates and location for this Tour will be announced on playhearthstone.com prior to the start of its qualifying period.
- (b) The tournament format for Masters Tour: Asia Pacific Qualifier will be announced on playhearthstone.com prior to the start of the qualifying period. If no such announcement happens prior to the start of the qualifying period, the format will remain as best of 3 Specialist format. For tournament description, please refer to section 5.5 of the Handbook.
- (c) Schedule of Master Tour: Asia Pacific Qualifiers is found here: <http://battlefy.com/HSEsports>. In the event of a discrepancy in the Qualifier schedule posted by Blizzard in any other location, the schedule at this link prevails.

5.6 Masters Tour: Europe Qualifier Specifically

- (a) The dates and location for this Tour will be announced on playhearthstone.com prior to the start of its qualifying period.
- (b) The tournament format for Masters Tour: Europe Qualifier will be announced on playhearthstone.com prior to the start of the qualifying period. If no such announcement happens prior to the start of the qualifying period, the format will remain as best of 3 Specialist format. For tournament description, please refer to section 5.5 of the Handbook.
- (c) Schedule of Master Tour: Europe Qualifiers is found here: <http://battlefy.com/HSEsports>. In the event of a discrepancy in the Qualifier schedule posted by Blizzard in any other location, the schedule at this link prevails.

5.7 Prize Awards.

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

5.8 Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournaments.

- (a) Each month during an active qualifier period, Blizzard will publish the top players in the Hearthstone in-game Standard Ranked Play Ladder. Players who reach Legend 200 rank or better at the end of each Standard Ranked Play Ladder month will be invited to participate in a special online “Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament”.
- (b) Each Hearthstone in-game server region will have a separate Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament each month during an active qualifier period.
- (c) Each Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament follows the rules of a normal Qualifier tournaments, with the following exceptions:
 - i. Each Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament is limited to a maximum of 200 players
 - ii. The top finishers in each Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament will earn prizes as set forth in the chart below, subject to the number of players in the Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament. If any Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament has more prize places than players, the prizes in the places that outnumber the number of players who finish the Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament will not be awarded.

Ranked Ladder Qualifiers Prizes	
Placement	Prize
1st-4th place	20 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$29.90 USD)
5th-8th places	10 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$14.95 USD)
9th-16th places	5 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$7.475 USD)
17th-32nd places	3 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$4.49 USD)
33nd-64th places	2 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$2.99 USD)
65th-128th	1 <i>Hearthstone</i> card packs (with an approximate retail value of \$1.50 USD)

(d) Additionally, the top four finishers in each completed Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament will each receive one Tour Invitation to compete at the Tour associated with the qualifying period in which the respective Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament took place, subject to the terms below. Tour Invitations are redeemable subject to the player eligibility terms contained in the Handbook. Tour Invitations will only grant admission to the Tour associated with the qualifying period in which the respective Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament took place, and may not be transferred to another Tour. Players must be physically present at the dates and location of the respective Tour in order to redeem a Tour Invitation. Tour Invitations will be forfeited if the player is not physically present on the registration date(s) and location of 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. 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 playhearthstone.com prior to the start of the respective Tour's qualifying period. Receipt of all Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournament prize awards are subject to the terms set forth in Section 5.3 of these Official Rules along with the prize award terms contained in the Handbook.

(e) The Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournaments schedule is outlined in the table below:

Ranked Ladder Qualifier Tournaments Schedule	
Americas server region Las Vegas Qualifier Tournament	April 13th, 2019 at 8 AM PST
Asia Pacific server region Las Vegas Qualifier Tournament	April 13th, 2019 at 11 AM KST
Europe server region Las Vegas Qualifier Tournament	April 13th, 2019 at 9 AM CET
Americas server region Asia Pacific Qualifier Tournament	May 11th, 2019 at 10 AM PST June 22nd, 2019 at 10 AM PST
Asia Pacific server region Asia Pacific Qualifier Tournament	May 11th, 2019 at 10 AM KST June 22nd, 2019 at 10 AM KST
Europe server region Asia Pacific Qualifier Tournament	May 11th, 2019 at 11 AM CET June 22nd, 2019 at 11 AM CET
Americas server region Europe Qualifier Tournament	July 13th, 2019 at 9 AM PDT August 25th, 2019 at 9 AM PDT
Asia Pacific server region Europe Qualifier Tournament	July 13th, 2019 at 11 AM KST August 25th, 2019 at 11 AM KST
Europe server region Europe Qualifier Tournament	July 13th, 2019 at 8 AM CEST August 25th, 2019 at 8 AM CEST

6. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

6.1 Changes to these Official Rules.

- (a) These Official Rules and the Handbook contain the rules, policies and practices of the Blizzard for the Qualifiers 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 Qualifiers 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 Qualifier or any player's participation in any

Qualifier should viruses, bugs, technical problems, unauthorized human intervention, hacks, or other causes beyond Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of any Qualifier, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running any Qualifier 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 any Qualifier, please email them to HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com or send written questions to: 2019 Hearthstone Masters Qualifiers c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 93623.

7. 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.

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

“**Blizzard Group**” means Blizzard, its parent and any of its 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 Qualifiers Official Competition Rules (i.e., the terms as set forth this document).

“**Website Terms**” means the Blizzard End User License Agreement applicable to your use of the Hearthstone game client and Blizzard’s Battle.net service, the Blizzard Entertainment Online Privacy Policy applicable to your use of Blizzard’s games, services, and websites, and the other terms and conditions governing use of Blizzard’s games, services, and websites.