2017 Hearthstone® Global Games
Official Competition Rules
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **INTRODUCTION** ..................................................................................................................................... 1  

2. **HEARTHSTONE GLOBAL GAMES** ...................................................................................................... 1  
   2.1. Acceptance of the Official Rules. ................................................................................................. 1  
   2.2. Applicability of the Official Rules. ............................................................................................... 1  

3. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** ............................................................................................ 2  
   3.1. Regional Eligibility. ...................................................................................................................... 2  
   3.2. Residency Requirements. .............................................................................................................. 2  
   3.3. Minimum Age Requirements. ....................................................................................................... 3  
   3.4. Ineligible Players.......................................................................................................................... 3  

4. **GLOBAL GAMES QUALIFICATION PATHS** ....................................................................................... 4  
   4.1. Global Games Period. ................................................................................................................... 4  
   4.2. Hearthstone Competitive Points ................................................................................................... 5  
   4.3. Ranked Play. ............................................................................................................................... 5  
   4.4. Hearthstone Cup Tournaments..................................................................................................... 6  
   4.5. Hearthstone Major Tournaments ................................................................................................. 7  
   4.6. Hearthstone Season Championship Tournaments ........................................................................ 7  
   4.7. Hearthstone World Championship Finals. .................................................................................... 7  

5. **TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE** ............................................................................................................... 8  
   5.1. Tournament Rules; Game Forfeitures. .......................................................................................... 8  
   5.2. Hearthstone Global Games Qualifying Tournament. ................................................................. Error! Bookmark not defined.  
   5.3. Hearthstone Global Games Finals Tournament. .......................................................................... 8  
   5.4. Prize Awards. .............................................................................................................................. 11  
   5.5. Travel and Expenses. .................................................................................................................. 11  

6. **PLAYER CONDUCT** .............................................................................................................................. 12  
   6.1. Behavior. ..................................................................................................................................... 12  
   6.2. Cheating. ..................................................................................................................................... 12
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Illegal and Unethical Conduct</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Anti-Harassment</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>Gambling</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>Alcohol and Drugs</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>Non-Disparagement</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>Interviews and the Media</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>Software and Hardware</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.10</td>
<td>Restricted Sponsorships</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.11</td>
<td>Disciplinary Action</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND DISCLAIMERS</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Cap on Liability; No Punitive Damages</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Disclaimers</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Changes to Your Battle.net Account</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>USE OF YOUR BRAND MATERIALS AND PERSONAL DATA</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>License to Use Your Brand Materials</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Advertising Materials</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Ownership of Advertising Materials, Feedback, Stats and Suggestions</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Collection of Personal Data</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Applicability</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Negotiations</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Binding Arbitration</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>Arbitration Procedures</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>Class and Collective Action Waiver</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>Location of Arbitration</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>Governing Law</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>GENERAL (BUT IMPORTANT) TERMS AND CONDITIONS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **INTRODUCTION**

These 2017 Hearthstone Global Games (“Global Games”) Official Competition Rules govern qualification for and competitive play of Hearthstone in the 2017 Hearthstone Global Games.

These Official Rules establish the rules of tournament play, including rules governing player eligibility, tournament structure, prize awards, sponsorships and player conduct.

You must accept these Official Rules in order to participate in Global Games, and you must abide by these Official Rules in order to remain eligible to play in Global Games and receive prizes. All of this is explained below.

2. **HEARTHSTONE GLOBAL GAMES**

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 Global Games.

   (b) If you are under the age of majority (as described below), 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 Global Games.

2.2. **Applicability of the Official Rules.**

   (a) These Official Rules govern competitive play of Hearthstone in the 2017 Hearthstone Global Games.

   (b) These Official Rules are in addition to 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 Europe Battle.net account holders is found at http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/legal/eula.html and the current version of the Online Privacy Policy for Europe Battle.net account holders is found at http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/about/privacy.html.
If you violate these Official Rules or the Website Terms, you may be subject to game forfeitures, prize forfeitures, disciplinary action and legal claims, as explained below.

3. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

3.1. **Regional Eligibility.**

(a) You may participate in Global Games if, as of November 7, 2016, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the United States of America.

(b) In order to be eligible, you must have authorized access to a full Battle.net account registered on Blizzard’s Americas, Asia, China, or Europe Battle.net service which contains a full Hearthstone: Heroes of Warcraft game license. Your account must be in good standing at the start of Global Games and remain in good standing throughout Global Games. A Battle.net light account is not sufficient for participation in Global Games.

(c) Your Battle.net Account must include a valid email address. Blizzard reserves the right to verify the email address that you provide.

(d) In order to participate in Global Games, you must be a natural person (i.e., not a corporation, partnership or other legal entity) who is the same individual who registered the Battle.net Account, unless you are a minor using a Battle.net Account registered by your parent or legal guardian.

3.2. **Residency Requirements.**

(a) If you want to participate in Global Games, you must provide Blizzard with proof that you are either a citizen or a legal resident of a country in the Americas, Asia, China, or Europe region whose residents are eligible to participate in Global Games.

(b) In order to prove residency, you must provide Blizzard with a Battle.net Account for verification purposes, and the country of residence of your Battle.net Account must be one of the eligible countries in the Americas, Asia, China, or Europe region set forth above. Your BattleTag must
match the tag of your public persona and Blizzard must pre-approve your BattleTag before you can enter Global Games, and you are not eligible to change the approved BattleTag until the end of Global Games.

(c) You are required to play Global Games matches from the country in the Americas, Asia, China, or Europe region listed on your Battle.net Account during Global Games, except for live events arranged by or for Blizzard. Blizzard may check IP connections at its sole discretion to determine geographical location.

(d) If you travel outside of your country of residence during Global Games Period, then you must notify Blizzard in advance unless the travel is for purposes of participating in the Hearthstone Championship Tour playoffs, Hearthstone Championship Tour finals, or for one of the Hearthstone Championship Tour Season Championship Tournaments.

(e) You will be required to provide Blizzard with a copy of a valid photo ID with a current address within your country of residence. A valid photo ID could include a government-issued driver’s license, military photo identification card or passport, or another government-issued document which is accepted by the respective Eligible Country’s government as a valid photo ID. If you have any questions about the residency requirements, email esportsteam@blizzard.com, and Blizzard can begin the verification process.

3.3. Minimum Age Requirements.

(a) You may participate in Global Games if you have reached the age of majority in your country of residence as of November 7, 2016.

(b) If you are under the legal age of majority in your country of residence, but over the age of 13 as of November 7, 2016, you may still enter Global Games and participate as a player if you otherwise meet all of the eligibility criteria set forth in these Official Rules and one of your parents or legal guardians reads and accepts these Official Rules on your behalf.

(c) In addition to your parents or legal guardians reading and accepting the rules, it is important to keep them informed of your participation in Global Games. Should you qualify for Global Games events, your parents or legal guardians must be involved in assisting with travel, signing waivers and communication.

3.4. Ineligible Players.
4. **GLOBAL GAMES QUALIFICATION PATHS**

4.1. **Global Games Period.**

(a) Qualification for Global Games shall commence on November 7, 2016, at approximately 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time, and will continue through the end of Global Games qualification period, which is expected to conclude on or about February 1st, 2017.

(b) During Global Games Period, there are two ways to qualify for Global Games:

- Blizzard will reach out to Hearthstone players who meet the Global Games eligibility requirements, and if they confirm they are interested, Blizzard will then place them on the Global Games website to be voted on by Hearthstone players that are residents from their country, or Hearthstone players whose Battle.net country does not have players to vote for (for example, If you live in India and there are not any Indian players to vote on you can cast your one (1) vote for anyone worldwide). Blizzard will then take a look at the votes and select three (3) players from the eight (8) nominated players to represent their country; or

- One Player will be selected by Blizzard as a player for his/her National team based on their 2017 Hearthstone Competitive Winter Rank. Points are earned toward this Hearthstone Competitive Rank based on performance, with better results awarding more points. The highest point earner will be contacted by Blizzard. If the player confirms to Blizzard that he/she is interested in competing on the Player’s National Team in the Tournament, Blizzard shall invite the Player to the National Team. If the player declines or does not respond within 120 hours from the contact by Blizzard (via email to their registered Battle.net Account’s email address) then Blizzard will reach out to the next highest 2017 HC Point Earner for that country. This process will repeat until a Player accepts.

- Blizzard shall also designate the captain of each National Team from the players that Blizzard selects to compete on a National Team.
4.2. **Hearthstone Competitive Rank.**

(a) During Global Games Period, players will be able to earn points toward their 2017 Hearthstone Competitive Rank. Points are earned based on performance, with better results awarding more points.

(b) A player will be able to earn points towards his or her Hearthstone Competitive Rank during Global Games Period by:

- Engaging in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladder;

- Competing in Hearthstone Cup Tournaments, in which Blizzard may award points to top placing players, except that players may only earn points from one Hearthstone Cup Tournament in any monthly period;

- Competing in Hearthstone Major Tournaments, in which Blizzard may award points to top placing players;

- Earning a berth to, and competing in, the Winter, Spring and Summer Championship Tournaments; and

- Earning a berth to, and competing in, the 2016 Hearthstone World Championship Finals.

(c) For the purposes of invitations to the 2017 Hearthstone Global Games, the 2017 HC Winter Rank will include: points earned during the 2017 Hearthstone Global Games qualification period, 2016 Summer Championship Tour Points, and 2016 Hearthstone World Championship at BlizzCon Points will count.

4.3. **Ranked Play.**

(a) A player will be awarded HC Rank points based on his/her standing in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladders at the end of each Standard Ranked Play season during Global Games Period.

(b) Each player who finishes a Standard Ranked Play season at Legend rank or better will earn the following points towards his/her HC Rank:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranked Play</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2nd - 10th Places 10 points
11th - 25th Places 8 points
26th - 50th Places 6 points
51st - 100th Places 4 points
101st - 200th Places 2 points
Legend 1 point

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 Europe, Americas, or Asia-Pacific in-game Hearthstone Ladders. Hearthstone Competitive Points 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, wintrading, etc., or where Hearthstone Competitive Points were incorrectly awarded to the player.

4.4. Hearthstone Cup Tournaments.

(a) Any event operated by a third party that awards points 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. Events must have a minimum of 128 open spots. 64 players must participate for the event to be considered to be able to award points. All matches must be at least Best of 5 of one of the approved formats listed at PlayHearthstone.com. Blizzard will post any Hearthstone Cup Tournament that it approves on PlayHearthstone.com.

(b) Players may earn points from only one Hearthstone Cup Tournament in any monthly period. Subject to that limitation, a player who finishes in the top eight at a Hearthstone Cup Tournament will earn the following points towards his/her HC Rank:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearthstone Cups</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>3 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - 4th Places</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th - 8th Places</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(c) Hearthstone Cup Tournaments posted on PlayHearthstone.com may have their points revoked at Blizzard’s discretion.

4.5. Hearthstone Major Tournaments.

(a) Any event operated by a third party that awards points must follow the Blizzard-approved criteria, which are listed at [www.playhearthstone.com/esports](http://www.playhearthstone.com/esports), and must submit all information to the Blizzard esports team for review and acceptance. Blizzard will post any Hearthstone Major Tournament that it approves on PlayHearthstone.com.

(b) Players who finish in the top sixteen at a Hearthstone Major Tournament will earn the following points towards their HC Ranks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearthstone Majors</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>12 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - 4th Places</td>
<td>8 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th - 8th Places</td>
<td>4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th- 16th Places</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.6. Hearthstone Season Championship Tournaments.

(a) As described further below, participants in each of the three Season Championship Tournaments will earn the following points toward their HC Ranks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season Championship Tournaments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - 4th Places</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th - 8th Places</td>
<td>8 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th - 16th Places</td>
<td>6 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th - 32nd Places</td>
<td>4 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd Place and below</td>
<td>2 Point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.7. Hearthstone World Championship Finals.
Players who earn a berth to, and compete in, the 2017 Hearthstone World Championship Finals will earn the following points toward their HC Ranks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Championship Finals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd - 4th Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th-8th Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th-16th Places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE**

5.1. **Tournament Rules; Game Forfeitures.**

(a) For all Global Games matches, each player will use Hearthstone card decks that he/she has created on the regional server on Battle.net as designated by Blizzard Entertainment.

(b) After the game begins, if a player leaves the game challenge lobby after accepting the challenge or leaves the Hearthstone game client for any reason, it is considered a game forfeiture and the opposing player will win the game, subject to a review and determination by Blizzard.

(c) Similarly, once the starting hands are provided by the Hearthstone game client, if a player leaves the game for any reason, the player is considered to have forfeited the game. If a player selects a deck with a class that he or she has not been designated to play, that game is considered a loss and forfeited, subject to a review and determination by Blizzard.

5.2. **Hearthstone Global Games Qualifying Tournament.**

(a) The forty-eight (48) National Teams as created and invited by Blizzard Entertainment will be invited to compete in the Hearthstone Global Games Qualifying Tournament.

(b) Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will determine the dates, times and locations for the Hearthstone Global Games Qualifying Tournament Matches.
In the first Stage, the forty-eight (48) National Teams will be seeded by their respective countries cumulative Winter HC Rank (all HC points of all players in the country for the 2017 Winter HC Rank) into one of eight (8), six (6) team groups. In these groups they will compete over the internet in Round Robin style, meaning each National Team will play each other National Team in its group, to determine the ‘Top Three” National Teams of the group of six (6). These ‘Top three’ National Teams’ will advance to the second Stage.

In the second Stage, the remaining twenty-four (24) National Teams will be seeded by their respective countries cumulative 2017 Spring HC Rank (all HC points of all players in the country for the 2017 Spring HC Rank) into one of six (6), four (4) team groups. In these groups they will compete over the internet in Round Robin style, meaning each National Team will play each other National Team in its group, to determine the ‘Top Two’ National Teams of the group of four (4). These ‘Top Two’ National Teams’ will advance to the third Stage. Additionally, all the 3rd place teams from each group will be compared against each other based on their tie-breaker scores. The four (4) highest placing 3rd place teams across all six (6) groups will advance to the third stage.

In the third Stage, the remaining sixteen (16) National Teams will be seeded by their respective countries cumulative 2017 Spring HC Rank (all HC points of all players in the country for the 2017 Spring HC Rank) and their finishes in the second stage (with higher finishes receiving a higher seeding) into one Single Elimination sixteen (16) team bracket. They will play two rounds this way in order to narrow to the top four (4) ‘National Teams’, these top four (4) will advance to the Hearthstone Global Games Finals Tournament.

Matches in the first, second and third Stages described above will utilize a best of five, class vs class format with nine unique classes per team each match. Each team will submit nine unique classes and decklists prior to the event. Each player on the team will have two classes and decklists they are able to play. These eight classes will be revealed before the match. The players will make the choice of which of their two classes and decklists they want to play before the match begins through their Team Captains submission (outlined below). After all classes and decklists have been submitted by both Teams the class choices for all potential games will be revealed publically for all Players to see. The ninth class will be designated as the "Ace Deck" and may be used for game 5 instead of the un-selected deck available to the "Ace Player". While submitting the roster the team decides who the "Ace Player" is and weather he/she is going to use an "Ace Deck" or the previously un-selected class available to him/her.

All decklists will not be revealed publically until after a match concludes but will be known to the administrators of the tournament to ensure the list is not changed.
Before the match begins, each Team Captain will submit the play order of players and the 5 classes for all 5 games. Both Team Captains will communicate their play order to the Blizzard representative in charge of their match at the same time “blind” (i.e., without knowing what the other Team Captain is submitting). After each ‘National Team’ has submitted their play order the order will be revealed to the opposing team and play will commence.

The ‘National Teams’ which are comprised of four (4) players in the Hearthstone Global Games Qualifying Tournament will earn the following prizes per player/team after the completion of all games/matches as designated by Blizzard Entertainment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Games Qualifying Tournament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th – 8th Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player: USD $1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Total: USD $6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th – 16th Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player: USD $1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Total: USD $5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th - 48th Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player: USD $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Total: USD $4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3. Hearthstone Global Games Finals Tournament.

(a) The Hearthstone Global Games Finals will consist of the top four (4) ‘National Teams’ that have advanced from the Hearthstone Global Games Qualifying Tournament.

(b) For the Round of Four Blizzard may, in its sole discretion, choose to provide lodging and transportation for the players who reach the Round of Four to a location where the players will compete in a studio, ‘off line,’ to determine the winner of the Hearthstone Global Games Finals Tournament.

(c) For the Round of Four, the ’National Teams’ will be seeded into a Single Elimination bracket, Best of 7 Tournament.

(d) The Round of Four will consist of a single-elimination bracket until the 2017 Global Games Champions are crowned. The bracket will be seeded according to the National Teams’ countries 2017 Summer HC Rank, with higher HC Rank providing a team a higher seeding in the Round of Four. Matches will utilize a best of seven, class vs class format with nine unique classes per team each match. Each player on the team will have two classes and decklists they are able to play. These eight classes will be revealed before the match. The players will make the choice of which of their two classes and decklists they want to play before the match begins through their
Team Captains submission (outlined below). After all classes and decklists have been submitted by both Teams the class choices for all potential games will be revealed publicly for all Players to see. The ninth class will be designated as the "Ace Deck" and may be used for Game 7 instead of the un-selected deck available to the "Ace Player". While submitting the roster the team decides who the "Ace Player" is and weather he/she is going to use an "Ace Deck" or the previously un-selected class available to him/her. All decklists will not be revealed publicly until after a match concludes but will be known to the administrators of the tournament to ensure the list is not changed.

(e) Before the match begins, each Team Captain will submit the play order of players and the 7 classes for all 7 games. Both Team Captains will communicate their play order to the Blizzard representative in charge of their match at the same time “blind” (i.e., without knowing what the other Team Captain is submitting). After each ‘National Team’ has submitted their play order the order will be revealed to the opposing team and play will commence.

(f) The winners of the Hearthstone Global Games will win USD $60,000, second place will earn $40,000, and third/fourth places will earn $20,000.

(g) The ‘National Teams’ which are comprised of four (4) players in the Hearthstone Global Games Finals Tournament will earn the following prizes per player/team after the completion of all games/matches as designated by Blizzard Entertainment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Games Finals Tournament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player: USD $15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Total: USD $60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player: USD $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Total: USD $40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd /4th Places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player: USD $5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Total: USD $20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.4. Prize Awards.

(a) The awarding of prizes is void where prohibited or restricted. No purchase is necessary to enter Global Games.

(b) State and local taxes, including VAT taxes which are associated with the receipt or use of any prizes are the sole responsibility of the winner. All cash prizes will be paid in US dollars. Winners will be required to complete and submit to Blizzard an IRS form W-8 or W-9 to receive a cash prize. Additional paperwork that Blizzard requests, including waivers and releases, must be
submitted to Blizzard before Blizzard will provide the winner with any prize. Prizes are not transferable.

(c) No substitutions or exchanges (including for cash) of any non-cash prizes will be permitted, except that Blizzard reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value for any non-cash prize.

(d) As a condition of being awarded any prize, winners will be required to execute and deliver to Blizzard a signed affidavit of eligibility and acceptance of these Official Rules and release of liability. In the event that a winner is under the age of majority, the winner’s parent or legal guardian will be required to execute and deliver such documents. Failure to return a signed affidavit within seven (7) days may result in forfeiture of prize. Potential winners are responsible for ensuring return of all required materials; proof of sending will not be considered proof of receipt by Blizzard.

(e) Blizzard will post a list of winners at http://us.battle.net/hearthstone no later than September 30, 2017. The list will remain available until October 31, 2017.

5.5. 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 Global Games, that player must have all the necessary visas, passports and other travel documents required to travel to and work in countries where live Global Games 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 Global Games event will be held will result in disqualification for that particular live Global Games event.

(c) All players are responsible for any and all costs and expenses associated with their participation in Global Games 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 Global Games 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. **Behavior.**

(a) Players must at all times observe the highest standards of personal integrity and good sportsmanship. Players are required to behave in a professional and sportsmanlike manner in their interactions with other competitors, Global Games organizers and members of the administration team, the media, sponsors and fans.

(b) Players may not use obscene gestures or profanity in their BattleTags, player handles, game chat, lobby chat or live interviews. This rule applies to English and all other languages in use in Global Games and includes abbreviations and/or obscure references.

(c) Players are expected to settle their differences in a respectful manner and without resort to violence, threats, or physical or non-physical intimidation. Violence is never permitted at any facility that is owned by or leased to Blizzard or a tournament organizer, or against any competitor or administrator.

6.2. **Cheating.**

(a) Players must compete to the best of their ability at all times. Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. All players are prohibited from influencing or manipulating a Global Games game or match so that the outcome is determined by anything other than its merits. Players may be required to install software on their computers for the duration of Global Games which is specially designed to detect cheating. Examples of cheating would include:

- Collusion, match fixing or any other action to intentionally alter, or attempt to alter, the results of any game or match, including losing a game or match with another player in order to advance one or the other’s rank;

- Being in communication with any other individuals during the time of a game being played during a Hearthstone Global Games’ game, this includes communication channels such as but not limited to Battle.net Chat, Battle.net Voice, or any other voice over internet protocol or internet chat services;
• Attempts to interfere with another player’s connection to the game service through Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) or any other means; and

• Allowing an individual who is not the registered owner of a Battle.net Account to play on that Battle.net Account in Hearthstone or any other Blizzard game.

(b) If someone asks you to bet on any Global Games game or “fix” the outcome of a game, you must immediately report this contact to Blizzard using the following email address: [HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com].

6.3. **Illegal and Unethical Conduct.**

(a) Players are required to observe all laws applicable to their participation in Global Games, including all games, matches, media events, autograph signings, photo sessions, sponsor events and other gatherings or events occurring with or as part of Global Games.

(b) A player may not, during any Global Games Event, commit any act or become involved in any situation or occurrence which brings him or her into public disrepute, scandal or ridicule, or shocks or offends the community, or derogates from his or her public image or reflects unfavorably upon Blizzard, Hearthstone or any of the other products, services or sponsors of Blizzard.

6.4. **Anti-Harassment.**

(a) Blizzard is committed to providing a competitive environment that is free of harassment and discrimination.

(b) In furtherance of this commitment, players engaged in Global Games and Global Games Events are prohibited from engaging harassment or discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or any other status or characteristic protected by law.

6.5. **Gambling.**

(a) Gambling on the outcome of Global Games games or matches can pose a serious threat to the integrity of Blizzard esports and public confidence in Global Games. Players are not allowed to place, or attempt to place, bets on any games or matches involving competitive play of a Blizzard title, including Hearthstone.
(b) This rule also prohibits players from participating in anyone else’s betting activities, asking anyone to place bets on Global Games games or matches on a player’s behalf, or encouraging anyone else to bet on Global Games games or matches.

6.6. **Alcohol and Drugs.**

(a) Blizzard’s goal is to provide a safe competitive environment by eliminating the hazards to health and safety created by alcohol and drug misuse and abuse. Blizzard will not tolerate the presence of illegal drugs or the unapproved use of legal drugs at any Global Games Event.

(b) The use, possession, distribution or sale of controlled substances, such as drugs or alcohol, or being under the influence of such controlled substances, is strictly prohibited while a player is engaged in Global Games Events or on premises that are owned by or leased to Blizzard or a tournament organizer.

(c) The unauthorized use or possession of prescription drugs by players is prohibited. Prescription drugs may be used only by the person to whom they are prescribed and in the manner, combination and quantity as prescribed. Prescription drugs may only be used to treat the condition for which they are prescribed and may not be used to enhance performance in a game or match.

6.7. **Non-Disparagement.**

(a) Players always have the right to express their opinions in a professional and sportsmanlike manner. Global Games disputes or player violation reports must be reviewed by the organizer and Blizzard before any information is released publicly.

(b) Players may not at any time make, post, publish or communicate to any person or entity or in any public forum any false, defamatory, libelous, slanderous or disparaging remarks, comments or statements concerning Blizzard, its parent and any of their respective affiliate companies and subsidiaries or Hearthstone or any other Blizzard title.

(c) This Section does not, in any way, restrict or impede a player from complying with any applicable law or a valid order of a court of competent jurisdiction or an authorized government agency, provided that such compliance does not exceed that required by the law or order.

6.8. **Interviews and the Media.**

(a) Players must be polite to spectators and media, but players have the right to refuse autograph signings, photo sessions and interviews that are not part of their official Global Games schedule.
(b) Players have the right to participate in non-official autograph signings, photo sessions and interviews that do not conflict with the official Global Games schedule.

6.9. **Software and Hardware.**

(a) Any intentional use, or attempted use, by a player of any bugs or exploits in the game may result in a forfeit of the match and disqualification from Global Games. Blizzard, at its discretion, will determine bugs and exploits.

(b) Players must consult with the organizer before bringing electronic storage devices to any Global Games event and are not allowed to use any mobile or external communication equipment during a match, including cellular phones. All personal equipment must be in an enclosed bag or be given to an administrator while a game or match is played.

6.10. **Restricted Sponsorships.**

(a) Blizzard wants you to be successful in your efforts to build your own brand and sponsorship opportunities. However, in order to preserve the reputation of Blizzard and Global Games, Blizzard needs to place some restrictions on sponsor categories.

(b) The following sponsor categories will not be allowed for any player participating in Global Games:

- Pornography (or materials that Blizzard determines are the equivalent of pornography);
- Alcohol;
- Tobacco or cigarettes, including vaping products;
- Firearms;
- Gambling, including websites that offer gambling;
- Any person or entity that offers products or services that Blizzard determines are detrimental to Hearthstone, Global Games or Blizzard’s business or that give one player an unfair advantage over another player, including hacking, gold selling services, account sellers and key sellers.

(c) In addition, Blizzard needs to preserve the right to have enterprise-wide sponsorships or sponsorships for particular game titles or particular events in order to fund the development and
expansion of Global Games, Tour Events and Hearthstone. Accordingly, Blizzard may designate certain sponsors or product categories as “reserved.” Players participating in Global Games and/or Global Games Events will not be permitted to accept sponsorships from reserved sponsors or in reserved categories.

6.11. **Disciplinary Action.**

(a) In order to preserve the integrity of Global Games and Blizzard’s reputation for open and fair competition, Blizzard will have the right to monitor compliance with these Official Rules and impose sanctions for violations.

(b) If Blizzard determines that a player has been cheating or has otherwise violated these Official Rules, the player may be immediately disqualified and removed from Global Games. In addition, Blizzard may, in its sole discretion:

- Issue a warning to the player and publish that warning on Hearthstone sites;
- Disqualify the player from participating in any future Hearthstone tournaments and events;
- Revoke all or any part of the points and prizes previously awarded to the player;
- Terminate all licenses granted to the player for Blizzard titles, including Hearthstone; and/or
- Terminate all Battle.net accounts that are held by the player.
- Add the player to a public list of players who are ineligible for play in future Hearthstone events.

(c) Blizzard’s determination as to the appropriate disciplinary action will be final and binding. Blizzard reserves the right to lock out players whose eligibility is in question or who have been disqualified or are otherwise ineligible to enter Global Games.

(d) The failure by a player (or his or her parent or legal guardian) to cooperate with any internal or external investigation that Blizzard conducts relating to a violation of these Official Rules or applicable law is, itself, a violation of these Official Rules.

7. **LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND DISCLAIMERS**

7.1. **Cap on Liability; No Punitive Damages.**
(a) You understand and agree that Blizzard and the other members of the Blizzard Group are not insurers of your property or your personal safety. If you feel that you need insurance, you should obtain it from an insurance company or other third party.

(b) You agree that the liability of Blizzard and the other members of the Blizzard Group to you for all harm, damages, injury or loss shall be limited to your direct damages not to exceed five hundred US dollars (USD $500.00), and this shall be your only remedy regardless of what legal theory is used to determine that Blizzard or another member of the Blizzard Group was liable for the harm, damages, injury or loss. Multiple claims will not expand this limitation.

(c) You further agree that the limitation of liability in this Section shall apply even if it is determined that Blizzard or another member of the Blizzard Group caused the harm, damages, injury or loss to you. The foregoing limitations apply even if your remedies under these Official Rules fail of their essential purpose.

(d) In no event shall Blizzard or any other member of the Blizzard Group be liable under to you, or any person or entity claiming rights derived from you, for any consequential, incidental, indirect, exemplary, special or punitive damages, including any damages for loss of data, revenue, prizes or profit, whether arising out of breach of contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise, regardless of whether such damages were foreseeable and whether or not Blizzard or any other Blizzard Group member was advised of the possibility of such damages.

7.2. Disclaimers.

(a) You agree that Blizzard and the other members of the Blizzard Group are not responsible for:

- Any late, lost, misrouted, garbled or distorted, inaccurate, incomplete or damaged transmissions or entries;

- Telephone, electronic, hardware, software, network, internet, or other computer- or communications-related malfunctions or failures;

- Any Global Games disruptions, injuries, losses or damages caused by events beyond the control of Blizzard (although Blizzard will take reasonable precautions to ensure reasonable safety); or
• Any printing or typographical errors in any materials associated with Global Games or Tour Events.

(b) All prizes are awarded “AS IS” and WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED (including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose).

7.3. Changes to Your Battle.net Account

(a) In accordance with the Battle.net End User License Agreement and without limiting Blizzard’s rights therein, Blizzard retains the right to modify or delete content, data, digital cards, accounts, statistics, user profiles, and any information created, stored, processed or uploaded to your Battle.net Account at any time and for any reason at its sole discretion.

(b) In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the Battle.net End User License Agreement and the provisions of these Official Rules, the provision that is most protective of Blizzard will govern and control.

8. USE OF YOUR BRAND MATERIALS AND PERSONAL DATA

8.1. License to Use Your Brand Materials.

(a) Blizzard wants to help promote you as an elite player and help you develop your personal brand. To do that, Blizzard needs a license to use your name, nickname, BattleTag, logo, initials, likeness, image, photograph, animation, autograph, voice, public persona, biographical information and backstory (“Your Brand Materials”). Blizzard also wants to use Your Brand Materials to promote Blizzard, Hearthstone and our other products and services, and you agree that Blizzard may do that.

(b) Accordingly, you hereby grant to Blizzard and the other members of the Blizzard Group a royalty-free, fully paid-up, worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, nonexclusive right and license (with the right to grant sublicenses) to copy, display, distribute, edit, transmit, host, store and otherwise use Your Brand Materials, and create derivative works thereof, in any and all present and future media, on or in connection with (i) the broadcast, re-broadcast and/or streaming (including via internet transmission and wireless networks) of all or any part of Global Games (including any games, matches or other competitions that are part of Global Games) or any Tour Event, and/or
(ii) the advertising, marketing, distribution, promotion and sale of the products and services of
the Blizzard Group, including Hearthstone and Global Games.


(a) The grant of rights and licenses in Section 8.1 includes the right and license of Blizzard and the
other Blizzard Group members (and their respective sublicenses) to copy, display, distribute, edit,
transmit, host, store and otherwise use Your Brand Materials, and create derivative works thereof,
on or in connection with:

- Websites of Blizzard and its streaming and broadcast partners;
- Social media postings;
- Print and online advertising and content;
- Network, cable and local television and radio;
- Newspaper and magazine advertising and content;
- Online advertising and content, including banners, leaderboards and skyscrapers;
- Outdoor and indoor billboards, posters, signs and displays;
- Product catalogues, point-of-sale materials, hang tags, product packaging and instruction
  manuals;
- Press releases, newsletters and e-alerts; and
- Hats, shirts and other apparel and gaming gear and peripherals.

(b) You hereby waive, and agree not to assert, any rights of prior review and/or approval of any of
the Advertising Materials that you may have under applicable law. Nothing in these Official
Rules requires Blizzard or a member of the Blizzard Group to make use of any of the rights or
licenses granted herein.

(c) You agree to take, at Blizzard’s expense, any further action (including execution of affidavits and
other documents) that Blizzard reasonably requests to effect, perfect or confirm Blizzard’s rights
as set forth in these Official Rules.

(a) As between you and Blizzard, you are the sole owner of Your Brand Materials.

(b) As between you and Blizzard, Blizzard shall be the sole owner of all of the following:

- Advertising Materials (but not Your Brand Materials that are incorporated into or used in the Advertising Materials);

- Works of authorship, audio-visual works, artwork, compilations, data and documentation that are created by or for a member of the Blizzard Group and that incorporate or make use of all or any part of Your Brand Materials (but not Your Brand Materials that are incorporated or used therein);

- Suggestions, comments and other feedback that you may provide to Blizzard relating in any way to Hearthstone, Global Games, Global Games Events or the business of Blizzard and all improvements or enhancements to Hearthstone, Global Games, Global Games Events and the business of Blizzard resulting therefrom;

- Data and statistics relating to your play of Hearthstone during Global Games, and all feeds and data streams of such data and statistics; and

- Intellectual property rights in each of the foregoing.

(c) You agree not to engage, directly or indirectly, in any acts that might jeopardize, or contest or attempt to acquire, any rights of the Blizzard Group in the Advertising Materials or any of the foregoing items.

(d) Blizzard collected the information necessary to operate Global Games at the time that you registered your Battle.net Account, and without limiting Blizzard’s rights under its Online Privacy Policies, Blizzard will use such information to contact you for matters and events related to the operation of Global Games. Note that the data controller for Global Games is Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., and the data collected by its affiliate, Blizzard Entertainment SAS, will be transferred to the United States of America in accordance with the EU Model Clauses. The details of each entrant (e-mail address) will be transmitted by the Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.’s server, which will process the data. The data will be collected during Global Games of each eligible participant in accordance with the «Informatique et Libertés» law, of the 6th of January 1978 and its later amendments, and accordance with the European directive number 95/46/CE. Each eligible participant grants Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. permission to use the information he is providing within the framework set by the «Informatique et Libertés» law of the 6th of January.
1978. Each eligible participant benefits from the right to access and modify his personal data. You may also withdraw your personal data upon request, however you will be disqualified from Global Games if you withdraw your personal data prior to the determination and fulfillment of the prizes listed in Section 5.

(e) Blizzard will collect, store, and use information collected in connection with Global Games and Tour Events (including information collected at live events) in accordance with Blizzard’s Online Privacy Policy, available at http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/about/privacy.html.

(f) By accepting these Official Rules in any of the ways provided in Section 2.1, you are also agreeing to the terms of Blizzard’s Online Privacy Policy.

(g) If you are a citizen of France and/or any of the other countries whose citizens are eligible for Global Games, and pursuant to French law pertaining to data collection and processing, you are informed that the data collector is Blizzard Entertainment, S.A.S., and the data collected will be transferred to the United States of America.

(h) Upon request, you will be provided with access to your personal data. You also have a right to opposition to the data collection, under certain circumstances. To exercise such right, you may write to “2017 Hearthstone Global Games - Personal Data,” c/o Blizzard Entertainment, 145 rue Yves le Coz, 78000 Versailles, France.

(i) You may not participate in Global Games if you are under the age of majority in your country of citizenship. If you are under the age of majority in your country of citizenship and Blizzard has not received specific permission from your parent or legal guardian for you to participate in Global Games, Blizzard will delete, erase or destroy any and all personally identifiable information related to Global Games.

9. **RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

9.1. **Applicability.**

(a) This Section 9.0 applies to and governs any Dispute that arises out of or relates to Global Games, a Tour Event or these Official Rules, or the breach thereof.

9.2. **Negotiations.**
(a) In an effort to accelerate resolution and reduce the cost of any Dispute, you and Blizzard agree to first attempt to negotiate a resolution of any Dispute informally for at least thirty (30) days before either party initiates legal proceeding.

(b) Negotiations will begin upon receipt of written notice by the party raising the Dispute. Blizzard will send its notice to your billing address and email you a copy to the email address you have provided to Blizzard in your Battle.net Account.

(c) You will send your notice to Blizzard at Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., 16215 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618, Attn: General Counsel.


(a) If a Dispute cannot be resolved through negotiations, either you or Blizzard may elect to have the Dispute finally and exclusively resolved by binding arbitration, unless one or more of the exceptions to negotiations and arbitration in Section 9.6 below apply. Any election to arbitrate by one party shall be final and binding on the other.

(b) YOU SHOULD REVIEW THIS PROVISION CAREFULLY. THIS ARBITRATION PROVISION LIMITS YOUR AND BLIZZARD’S ABILITY TO LITIGATE CLAIMS IN COURT AND YOU AND BLIZZARD EACH AGREE TO WAIVE YOUR RESPECTIVE RIGHTS TO A JURY TRIAL.

(c) The arbitration shall be commenced and conducted by JAMS pursuant to its Comprehensive Arbitration Rules and Procedures, which are available at the JAMS website (http://www.jamsadr.com). If, for any reason, JAMS is unable to provide the arbitration, you may file your Dispute with any national arbitration company under the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator has authority to decide all issues of arbitrability, including where a party raises as a defense to arbitration that the claims in question are subject to one or more exceptions to negotiations and arbitration in Section 9.6 below.

(d) Where any action includes claims that are arbitrable and claims that are not, the entire action shall be stayed, absent a showing of prejudice to the complaining party, pending the completion of the arbitration of the arbitrable issues. You or Blizzard can request the stay be lifted upon a showing of prejudice. Your arbitration fees and your share of arbitrator compensation shall be governed by the JAMS Comprehensive Arbitration Rules and Procedures.

(a) The arbitration may be conducted in person, through the submission of documents, by phone, or online. The arbitrator will make a decision in writing, but need not provide a statement of reasons unless requested by a party. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on you and Blizzard, and any award of the arbitrator may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) The parties understand that, absent this mandatory provision, they would have the right to sue in court and have a jury trial. They further understand that, in some instances, the costs of arbitration could exceed the costs of litigation. The parties understand that the right to discovery may be more limited in arbitration than in court.


(a) You and Blizzard agree that any arbitration or court proceeding shall be limited to the Dispute between Blizzard and you individually.

(b) You acknowledge and agree that: (i) a claim by, or on behalf of, other persons, will not be considered in, joined with, or consolidated with, the arbitration proceedings or any court proceedings between you and Blizzard; (ii) there is no right or authority for any Dispute to be arbitrated, adjudicated, or resolved through court proceedings on a class-action basis or to utilize class action procedures; and (iii) you will not have the right to participate as a class representative, private attorney general, or as a member of any class of claimants for any Dispute subject to arbitration or any dispute brought in court. Any Dispute regarding the prohibitions in the prior Sections shall be resolved by the arbitrator in accordance with this Section 9.0.

(c) If, for any reason, this class or collective action waiver is deemed unenforceable by a court or arbitrator, you agree that the parties’ contract to arbitrate is then void, and any ongoing or future Dispute will be submitted to a court of competent jurisdiction within the County of Orange, State of California, United States of America, to the exclusion of arbitration. Any Dispute at that time in arbitration will be dismissed without prejudice and refiled in a court.

(d) Under no circumstances do you or Blizzard agree to class or collective procedures in arbitration or court proceedings or the joinder of claims in arbitration or court proceedings.


(a) If you are a resident of the United States, any arbitration will take place in your county of residence, to the exclusion of all other venues.
(b) For residents outside the United States, any arbitration shall be initiated in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, United States of America.

(c) Any Dispute not subject to arbitration shall be decided by solely a court of competent jurisdiction within the County of Orange, State of California, United States of America, and you and Blizzard agree to submit to the personal jurisdiction of that court.

(d) You and Blizzard agree that the following Disputes are not subject to the above provisions concerning negotiations and binding arbitration: (i) any Dispute seeking to enforce or protect, or concerning the validity of, any of Blizzard’s intellectual property rights; (ii) any Dispute related to, or arising from, claims that the other party has committed piracy or tortious interference; and (iii) any claim within the jurisdictional limits of the small claims courts.

(e) For Quebec residents: Any litigation respecting the conduct or organization of a publicity contest may be submitted to the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux for a ruling. Any litigation respecting the awarding of a prize may be submitted to the board only for the purpose of helping the parties reach a settlement.


(a) All Disputes shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the United States of America and the law of the State of Delaware, without regard to choice of law principles, provided that Blizzard shall have the right to disqualify any players that are rendered ineligible due to local law.

Players agree to be bound by these Official Rules and by the decisions of Blizzard with respect to the disciplinary actions imposed for their violation, which are final and binding in all respects. The application of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods is expressly excluded.

10. **General (But Important) Terms and Conditions**

10.1. Blizzard Copyrights and Trademarks.

(a) These Official Rules, Global Games and all accompanying materials are copyright © 2016 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., and its respective licensors. All rights are reserved.
(b) Nothing in these Official Rules or your participation in Global Games grants to you, by implication, waiver, estoppel or otherwise, any right or license to use or display any name, logo, service mark or trademark of Blizzard or any other Blizzard Group member.

10.2. **Changes to Hearthstone.**

(a) Blizzard reserves the right to patch, update or improve Hearthstone at any time to fix bugs, change balance or add features or functionality as deemed appropriate by the Blizzard, in its sole discretion, without suspending or canceling Global Games.

(b) You agree that Blizzard will not be liable to you for any changes to Hearthstone or these Official Rules.

10.3. **Changes to these Official Rules.**

(a) These Official Rules contain the rules, policies and practices of the Blizzard for Global Games 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 Global Games are superseded.

(b) Blizzard reserves the right to revise, modify, change, delete or add to these Official Rules at any time, in its sole discretion, and to suspend, cancel or modify Global Games or any player’s participation in Global Games should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond Blizzard’s control affect the administration, security or proper play of Global Games, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running Global Games 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 Global Games.

10.4. **No Employment Relationship.**

(a) You agree that you are not an employee or contractor of Blizzard or any other Blizzard Group member and are not entitled to employee or fringe benefits.

(b) Nothing in these Official Rules shall be deemed or construed to create a partnership, joint venture or similar relationship or create fiduciary duties or responsibilities on the part of Blizzard or any other member of the Blizzard Group.

10.5. **Communications.**
(a) We both agree that these Official Rules 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 Global Games, please email them to esportsteam@blizzard.com or send written questions to: 2017 Hearthstone Global Games c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 93623.
“Advertising Materials” means (a) the websites of Blizzard and its streaming and broadcast partners; (b) social media postings; (c) print and online advertising and content; (d) network, cable and local television and radio; (e) newspaper and magazine advertising and content; (f) online advertising and content, including banners, leaderboards and skyscrapers; (g) outdoor and indoor billboards, posters, signs and displays; (h) product catalogues, point-of-sale materials, hang tags, product packaging and instruction manuals; (i) press releases, newsletters and e-alerts; and (j) hats, shirts and other apparel and gaming gear and peripherals.

“Europe” means Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

“Americas” means Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the United States of America.

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

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

“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 November 7, 2016, at approximately 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

“Dispute” means any dispute, controversy, or claim, whether based on contract, tort, fraudulent misrepresentation, statute, regulation, constitution, common law, equity, or any other matter, that arises out of or relates to Global Games, a Tour Event or these Official Rules, or the breach thereof.

“Hearthstone Competitive Rank” or “HC Rank” refers to the standings of players based on the points they have earned toward their HC Rank from, for example, engaging in Standard Ranked Play on the Hearthstone Ladder or competing in certain Tour tournaments.
“Hearthstone Ladder” means the in-game Standard Monthly Ladder that exists inside the Hearthstone Game Client.

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

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

“Official Rules” means the 2017 Hearthstone Global Games Official Competition Rules (i.e., the terms as set forth this document).

“Global Games” means the 2017 Hearthstone Global Games Tournament. Global Games includes the Hearthstone Global Games Qualification Tournament and the Hearthstone Global Games Finals Tournament.

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

“Global Games Period” means the period starting on the Commencement Date and continuing through the end of Global Games period, which is expected to conclude on or about August 31, 2017.

“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 European region Battle.net account holders is found at http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/legal/eula.html and the current version of the Online Privacy Policy for European region Battle.net account holders is found at http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/about/privacy.html.

“Winter HC Rank” refers to the HC Rank that reflects only the HC Rank points accumulated during the Winter Season.

“Season HC Rank” refers to an HC Rank that will reflect only the HC Rank points accumulated during that particular Season (Winter, Spring, or Summer).

“Spring HC Rank” refers to the HC Rank that reflects only the HC Rank points accumulated during the Spring Season.

“Spring Season” means the period between approximately February 1, 2017 and May 1, 2017.
“Summer HC Rank” refers to the HC Rank that reflects only the HC Rank points accumulated during the Summer Season.

“Summer Season” means the period between approximately May 1, 2017 to August 1, 2017.

“Winter Season” means the period between [November 7, 2016 and February 1, 2017].

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