

**2018/2019 HCT Transition Period**  
**OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

These HCT Transition Period Official Competition Rules (“Official Rules”) govern how players earn Hearthstone Competitive Points (“points”) and receive prizing during the Hearthstone Championship Tour Transition Period which begins on December 1, 2018 and concludes on or about March 31, 2019 (“Transition Period”).

These Official Rules in conjunction with the Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook and 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour Official Competition Rules (“HCT Rules”) establish the rules of participating in the HCT Transition Period, including rules governing player eligibility, tournament structure, point structures, prize awards, sponsorships, and player conduct.

You must accept these Official Rules, the Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook, and the HCT Rules in order to participate in the HCT Transition Period. You must also abide by these Official Rules, the Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook, and the HCT Rules in order to remain eligible to play and receive prizes. Official Rules are explained below. The Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook and HCT Rules can be found here: [blizz.ly/HSrules](http://blizz.ly/HSrules)

## 2. HCT TRANSITION PERIOD RULES

### 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 Transition Period.
- (b) If you are under the age of majority (as described in the Hearthstone Tournament Player 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 tournament.

### 2.2. Applicability of the Official Rules.

- (a) These Official Rules govern play in the Transition Period. These rules apply to

competitions taking place in the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe regions. Other rules apply to competitions taking place in China.

- (b) If you violate these Official Rules, Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook, the HCT Rules, or the Website Terms, you may be subject to game forfeitures, prize forfeitures, disciplinary action and legal claims, as explained below and in the Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook.

### 3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1. Regional Eligibility.

- (a) For portions of the Transition Period tournaments that limit participation to residents of that region (“Region Limited Tournament”), you may participate in those portions of the tournament only if you are a resident of that region. For portions of the tournament that are international, you may participate in those portions of the tournament 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 region if, as of January 1, 2018 you are a legal resident of one of the following countries: 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 region if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following countries: 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 region if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following countries: 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 Player Handbook document.

## 4. EARNING POINTS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD

### 4.1 Transition Period.

- (a) Qualification for the Transition Period shall commence on December 1, 2018, at approximately 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, and is expected to conclude on or about March 31, 2019 (as determinable in Blizzard's sole discretion).
- (b) The rewards for HCT points accumulated during the Transition Period as described in these Official Rules will be awarded on or about April 1, 2019.

### 4.2 Earning Hearthstone Competitive Points during the Transition Period.

- (a) While participating in the Transition Period, players are able to earn points. Points are earned based on performance within qualified tournament events, with better results awarding more points.
- (b) A player will be able to earn points during the Transition Period by:
  - Competing in Hearthstone Championship Tour Stops (as defined in the HCT Rules);
  - Competing in the Regional Seasonal Playoffs (as defined in the HCT Rules); and
  - Competing in the Seasonal Championship Tournaments (as defined in the HCT Rules)
- (c) Over the course of the Transition Period, each player will accumulate points. Point-giving Tournaments designated by Blizzard which end within the Transition Period contribute to the Transition Period points total. The following tournament events will award points during the Transition Period:
  - DreamHack Winter
  - HCT Philadelphia

- Europe Season 3 Playoffs
  - Americas Season 3 Playoffs
  - Asia-Pacific Season 3 Playoffs
  - Season 3 Championship
  - Any other Hearthstone Championship Tour Stop approved by Blizzard under the HCT Rules.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, engaging in standard ranked play on the Hearthstone Ladder within the game client does not earn points during the Transition Period.

#### 4.3 Hearthstone Championship Tour Stop Points.

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

Hearthstone Tour Stops	
1st Place	15 points
2nd Place	12 points
3rd - 4th Places	10 points
5th - 8th Places	8 points
9 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> Places	6 points
17 <sup>th</sup> – 32 <sup>nd</sup> Places	4 points

#### 4.4 Hearthstone Season 3 Regional Playoff Tournament Points.

- (a) Each Season 3 Playoff Tournament is a Region Limited Tournament. Each region will have a Season 3 Playoff Tournament, which is open only to players from that Region. The Season 3 Playoff Tournaments are described in the HCT Rules.
- (b) Participants in each of the Season 3 Regional Playoff Tournaments will earn the following points during the Transition Period:

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

- (c) Players finishing 1st through 4th place at the Season 3 Regional Playoff Tournaments do not receive points, because they are invited to play in the Season 3 Championship Tournament and receive points there.

#### 4.5 Hearthstone Season 3 Championship Points.

- (a) The Hearthstone Season 3 Championship is described in the HCT Rules.
- (b) Participants in the Season 3 Championship Tournament will earn the following points during the Transition Period:

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

## 5. TRANSITION PERIOD REWARDS

Points earned during the Transition Period will be added to the cumulative points earned by a participant during Seasons 1, 2 and 3 as defined in the HCT Rules. Players who earn a cumulative total of the following points during Seasons 1, 2 and 3 and the Transition Period will be awarded the following:

Transition Period Rewards	
200 Points and above	Invites to three live global Hearthstone tournaments in 2019 \$2,500 USD appearance bonus per event for three live global Hearthstone tournaments in 2019
175 – 199 Points	Invites to three live global Hearthstone tournaments in 2019 \$1,000 USD appearance bonus per event for three live global Hearthstone tournaments in 2019
150 – 174 Points	Invites to two live global Hearthstone tournaments in 2019 (player’s choice of locations)
120 – 149 Points	Invites to one live global Hearthstone tournament in 2019 (player’s choice of location)

All live global Hearthstone tournaments mentioned above will be live tournament events designated by Blizzard as part of its competitive Hearthstone ecosystem after the conclusion of the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour year. Players must appear at the designated live global Hearthstone tournament to receive any appearance bonuses described above. Blizzard reserves the right to substitute any prize awards for prizes of equal or greater value.

## 6. PLAYER CONDUCT

Player conduct, rule infractions, penalties, and disciplinary procedures for the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour and Transition Period 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, the HCT Rules, and the Handbook contain the rules, policies and practices of the Blizzard for the Transition Period 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 Transition Period 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 Transition Period or any player's participation in the Transition Period should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of the Transition Period, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running the Transition Period 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 any Transition Period tournament.

## 7.2 Communications.

- (a) We both agree that these Official Rules, the HCT 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](mailto: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.**

## 8. 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.

“**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 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 Rules**” means the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour Official Competition Rules which among other things, establishes the rules of tournament play for Hearthstone Championship Tour tournaments.

“**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.

“**Official Rules**” means the HCT Transition Period Official Competition Rules (i.e., the terms as set forth this document).

**“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).

**“Season 1”** refers to point-earning Hearthstone Championship Tour activity between January 1st, 2018 and March 31st, 2018.

**“Season 2”** refers to point-earning Hearthstone Championship Tour activity between April 1st, 2018 and July 31st, 2018.

**“Season 3”** refers to point-earning Hearthstone Championship Tour activity between August 1st, 2018 and November 30th, 2018.

**“Tour”** means the 2018 Hearthstone Championship Tour.

**“Tour Stop”** means a Hearthstone Championship Tour Stop event which is operated by either Blizzard or a third party and awards Hearthstone Championship Tour competitive points.

**“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>.