



2018/2019 HEARTHSTONE® CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR
OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

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1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

2. HEARTHSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

2.1. Acceptance of the Official Rules.

- (a) You may accept these rules by signing or accepting a Player Participation Form, either in print or online. You also indicate your acceptance to these Official Rules if you enter and participate in any game or match that is part of the Tour.
- (b) If you are under the age of majority (as described in the Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook), your parent or legal guardian may accept these Official Rules on your behalf.
- (c) If you (or your parent or legal guardian) do not accept these Official Rules or you do not meet the player eligibility requirements in Section 3 below, you may not participate in the Tour.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Regional Eligibility.

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

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

- (b) You may participate in the Americas portion of the Tour if, as of January 1, 2018 you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: United States, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- (c) You may participate in the Asia-Pacific portion of the Tour if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- (d) You may participate in the Europe portion of the Tour if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.
- (e) Eligibility, residency requirements, minimum age requirements and ineligible players are further described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document.

3.2. Resolving Multiple Regional Eligibility.

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

4. TOUR QUALIFICATION EVENTS

4.1. Tour Period.

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

expected to conclude on March 31st, 2019.

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

4.2. HCT Seasons

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

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

4.3. Hearthstone Competitive Points.

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

- Competing in the 2017 Hearthstone World Championship.

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

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

4.4. Ranked Play.

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

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

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

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

4.5. Hearthstone Championship Tour Stops.

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

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

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

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

4.7. Hearthstone Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments.

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

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

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

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

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

4.8. Hearthstone Seasonal Championship.

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

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

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

4.9. Hearthstone World Championship.

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

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

4.10. Regional Points Leader.

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

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

4.11. Hearthstone Masters.

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

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

5. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

5.1. Tournament Rules.

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

ruling is decided by the Blizzard Esports team.

5.2. Seasonal Playoff Tournaments Generally.

- (a) Seasonal Playoff Tournaments are Region Limited Tournament. Each region will have a Seasonal Playoff Tournament, which is open only to players from that Region.
- (b) Players qualify for each Seasonal Playoff Tournament in the following ways:
 - The players from the HCT Challengers tournaments as detailed in section 4.6.
 - The invited players who reached the point target for that particular season as detailed in section 4.7; and
 - Automatically invited three-star master tier players as detailed in section 4.11
- (c) For the Seasonal Playoff Tournaments, a player may compete at the location that is most convenient (from among those Blizzard designates), but each player will be matched against his or her opponent based on pairings regardless of where in their region the players are physically located.
- (d) Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will determine the dates, times and locations for the Seasonal Playoff Tournaments.
- (e) All players must attend one of the live events to participate in their Seasonal Playoff Tournaments. Blizzard will distribute invitations to their Seasonal Playoff Tournaments by email to players who qualify no less than a week before the dates of each of the Seasonal Playoff Tournaments.
- (f) Players will be randomly seeded into a standard Swiss-pairing style (“Swiss”) tournament, where they will compete over the internet for 7 rounds of Swiss pairings to determine the eight best finishers based on match scores and tiebreakers (“Round of Eight”). All matches inside the current round must be completed at which point all new pairings for the upcoming round will be made based on the results of the previous round. These pairings will be based on the Swiss record of the players through their Season 1 Playoff Tournaments. Starting with the players with the best record, players are randomly paired against other players with the same record that they have not played previously in the tournament. If there are no players left with the same record, the remaining player will be paired against a random player with the next best record. This process continues until there are no matches able to be created. Any remaining player receives a bye. Ties will be determined by a set of tie breakers determined by the organizer.

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

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

5.3. Seasonal Championship Tournaments Generally.

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

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

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

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

5.4. Hearthstone World Championship Generally.

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

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

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

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

5.5. Season 1 Playoff Tournaments Specifics.

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

5.6. Season 2 Playoff Tournaments Specifics.

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

5.7. Season 3 Playoff Tournaments Specifics.

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

5.8. Prize Awards.

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

5.9. Travel and Expenses.

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

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

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

6. PLAYER CONDUCT

6.1. Player Conduct.

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

7. GENERAL (BUT IMPORTANT) TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Changes to these Official Rules.

- (a) These Official Rules and the Handbook contain the rules, policies and practices of the Blizzard for the Tour that are in effect at the time of their publication. All previously issued rules, policies and practices (other than the Website Terms), whether in print or online, relating to the Tour are superseded.
- (b) Blizzard reserves the right, subject to the approval of the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux, to revise, modify, change, delete or add to these Official Rules at any time, in its sole discretion, and to suspend, cancel or modify the Tour or any player's participation in the Tour should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of the Tour, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running the Tour as planned.
- (c) Due to server capacity and other technical limitations beyond the control of Blizzard, Blizzard reserves the right to limit the number of players in the Tour.

7.2 Communications.

- (a) We both agree that these Official Rules and the Handbook together constitute a written agreement signed by both you and Blizzard under applicable law.
- (b) To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, these Official Rules, and any other notices, requests and other communications provided for herein, may be provided to you electronically, and you agree to receive all such communications from Blizzard electronic form. Electronic communications will be delivered to you at the email address listed on your Battle.net Account.
- (c) If you have any questions or comments about these Official Rules or the Tour, please email them to HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com or send written questions to: **2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 93623.**

11. GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“**Handbook**” means the 2018 Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook, which among other things, establishes the rules of tournament play, including rules governing player eligibility, tournament structure, point structures, prize awards, sponsorships, player conduct, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DC: 5954933-3



**2018/2019 HEARTHSTONE TOURNAMENT
PLAYER HANDBOOK**

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1. INTRODUCTION

This 2018/2019 Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook (the “Handbook”) governs certain aspects of all 2018/2019 tournament play for Blizzard first party and licensed Hearthstone Tournaments (“Tournament(s)”). The Handbook establishes the rules of Tournament play, player eligibility, Tournament formats and structure, point structures, prize awards, sponsorships and player conduct.

In order to participate in a Tournament during the 2018 Hearthstone Tournament season, you must first acknowledge your acceptance of this Handbook, as well as any rules specific to a Tournament.

2. APPLICABILITY OF RULES

2.1 Acknowledgement of this Handbook.

- (a) You can acknowledge your acceptance of this Handbook by:
 - (i) signing or accepting a player participation form for any Tournament, either in print or online; or
 - (ii) entering and participating in a game or match that is part of a Tournament. Note that Blizzard may require you to sign or accept a player participation form prior to allowing you to participate in certain Tournaments.
- (b) If you are under the age of majority (as described below), your parent or legal guardian may acknowledge your acceptance these this Handbook on your behalf.
- (c) If you (or you parent or legal guardian) do not accept this Handbook or you do not meet the player eligibility requirements in section 3 below, you may not participate in Tournaments.

2.2 Applicability of Rules.

- (a) The terms contained in this Handbook apply to Tournaments in the Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Europe regions, including the following:
 - Hearthstone Championship Tour

- Hearthstone Tour Stops
- HCT Challengers
- Hearthstone Global Games
- Hearthstone Inn-vitational
- Hearthstone Collegiate Champs

- (b) Specific Tournament rules will list the specific countries whose residents are eligible to participate in that particular Tournament. Note that this Handbook does not apply to Tournaments or programs that occur in China. Chinese Tournaments and programs are governed by rules published here: <http://hs.blizzard.cn>.
- (c) The following Website Terms are incorporated by reference into this Handbook, and are applicable to a Participant's use of their Battle.net accounts during their participation in one or more of the Programs:
- (i) The current version of the End User License Agreement for Americas 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>.
- (ii) The current version of the End User License Agreement for Asia-Pacific Battle.net account holders is found at <http://sea.blizzard.com/en-sg/company/legal/eula.html> and the current version of the Online Privacy Policy for is found at <http://sea.blizzard.com/en-sg/company/about/privacy.html>.
- (iii) 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>.

Your failure to adhere to the terms of this Handbook, or your violation of the End User License Agreement or Privacy Policy that governs the use of your Battle.net account may be subject you to game forfeitures, prize forfeitures, disciplinary action and legal claims, as explained below.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Participation and Eligibility.

- (a) You may participate in a Tournament if your country and local laws do not prohibit you from participation. Specific programs may have other regional requirements for participation and may exclude your participation based on regionality. In such cases, the specific program documents will supersede this document.
- (b) Certain Tournaments are continuation of other Tournaments and may have point requirements, or specific requirements for Tournament finishes that you must meet in order to participate. These requirements are outlined in the rules for those Tournaments.
- (c) Certain Tournaments may have limited signups and are subject to a first-come-first-serve sign up system.
- (d) Some Tournaments, such as Hearthstone Collegiate Tournaments, are limited to a specific category of players. The rules for those Tournaments will explain who is eligible to participate in the Tournament.
- (e) In general, Tournament organizers may not exclude players from Tournament participation, as long as the player meets the eligibility requirements outlined in this Handbook and in the rules for that specific Tournament.
- (f) In order to be eligible to participate in a Tournament, you must:
 - (i) have authorized access to a full Battle.net account registered on Blizzard's Battle.net service appropriate for your region as defined by the specific Tournament program which contains a full hearthstone game license;
 - (ii) have a Battle.net account that is in good standing at the start of the Hearthstone Tournament and remain in good standing throughout the Tournament (a Battle.net light account is not sufficient for participation in Tournaments);

- (iii) have a valid email address associated with your Battle.net Account as Blizzard reserves the right to verify the email address that you provide; and
- (iv) 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) Some Tournaments may only be open to residents of specific regions, and you may be required to provide proof that you are either a citizen or a legal resident of a country in the region whose residents are eligible to participate in that Tournament.
- (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 region where the Tournament is held. Your BattleTag must match the tag of your public persona, Blizzard or the Tournament organizer of the Tournament must pre-approve your BattleTag before you can enter the Tournament, and you are not eligible to change the approved BattleTag until the end of the Tournament.
- (c) You are required to play all Tournament matches from the country in the region listed on your Battle.net Account during the Tournament, 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 the Tournament period, then you must notify Blizzard or the Tournament organizer in advance unless the travel is for purposes of participating in either the playoffs, or finals of the Tournament in which you are participating.
- (e) For certain Tournaments in order to continue to participate, 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. If you have any questions about the residency requirements, email HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com, and Blizzard can begin the verification process.

3.3 Minimum Age Requirements.

- (a) You may participate in a Tournament if you have reached the age of majority in your country of residence at the start of the Tournament. Tournament or program start dates are outlined in the rules for a specific Tournament.
- (b) If you are under the legal age of majority in your country of residence, but over the age of 13 as of the Tournament start date, you may still enter the Tournament and participate as a player if you otherwise meet all of the eligibility criteria set forth in this Handbook, any Tournament specific rules, otherwise comply with all country and local regulation for Tournament participation and one of your parents or legal guardians reads and acknowledges your acceptance the terms contained in this Handbook on your behalf.
- (c) In addition to your parents or legal guardians reading and acknowledging your acceptance of the terms contained in this Handbook , it is important to keep them informed of your participation in the Tournament. Should you qualify for Tournament events, your parents or legal guardians must be involved in assisting with travel, signing waivers and communication.

3.4 Ineligible Players.

- (a) The directors, officers and employees of Blizzard, its parent, and any of their respective affiliate companies, subsidiaries, agents, professional advisors, advertising and promotional agencies, and immediate family and household members of each are not eligible to participate in the Tournaments and/or to win any prizes.
- (b) In addition, for a Tournament administered by a third party, directors, officers and employees of the entity operating the Tournament, its parent, and any of their respective affiliate companies, subsidiaries, agents, professional advisors, advertising and promotional agencies, and immediate family and household members of each are not eligible to participate in the Tournaments and/or to win any prizes.

4. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

4.1 General.

- (a) Tournament structure covers the specifics of how rounds are played, in which medium, what the Tournament formats are and how players are awarded prizes.

4.2 Online and Live Tournaments.

- (a) Some Tournaments are entirely played online or have an on-line component. During those Tournaments participant must still adhere to residency requirements. Unless otherwise defined in the format participants may not have others provide advice to them during Tournament play, or play for them.
- (b) Some Tournaments are played at a live venue. The specifics of the Tournament structure are covered within each Tournament document. Unless otherwise explained in the Tournament document, players are responsible for costs associated with transportation to and from the venue.

4.3 Tournament Formats.

- (a) Most Tournaments have Tournament formats that accommodate the need for that specific Tournament. The specifics for Tournament formats is outlined in the Tournament specific rules. In general, Tournaments may have different Tournament formats for different stages of the Tournament.
- (b) Tournament organizers must post Tournament formats and any other Tournament mechanics in the Tournament specific rules as part of the Tournament announcement. Tournament organizers may not alter Tournament formats or Tournament mechanics 3 days or less prior to the start of the Tournament.

4.4 Swiss Pairings Tournament.

- (a) For Hearthstone Tournaments with more than 64 players, Blizzard prefers the Swiss pairings (“Swiss”) Tournament format. Swiss format pairs players based on their running record and no player can face the same opponent twice during the Swiss rounds portion of the Tournament. During round one of Swiss, organizers must randomly determine round one pairings and may not seed players into the pairings.
- (b) When using Swiss, it is necessary to display tiebreakers in order to accurately rank players. Tournament organizers are required to display no fewer than 2 tiebreakers and clearly communicate how the tiebreakers are calculated to the Tournament attendees.

- (c) When using the swiss pairings Tournament format, organizers must employ an additional Tournament format for that Tournament, such a single elimination bracket. Swiss Tournaments must run the following number of rounds and must adhere to the following single elimination bracket. For Tournaments with 513 or more players, Tournament organizers must add additional rounds following the below structure.

Players	Swiss Rounds	Playoff
9-16	4	Top 4
17-32	5	Top 8
33-64	6	Top 8
65-128	7	Top 8
129-256	8	Top 8
257-512	9	Top 8

4.5 Single Elimination Tournament.

- (a) In single elimination Tournaments, competitors are eliminated outright upon losing, while winners advance to play against other winners until a single player wins.
- (b) For top 8 playoffs, organizers must use performance from the previous rounds in order to construct the bracket.

4.6 Double Elimination Tournament.

- (a) Double elimination Tournaments have two elimination brackets with all competitors beginning in the upper bracket. After their first defeat, the losing player is sent to the lower bracket. Losing in the lower bracket results in elimination from the Tournament.

4.7 Dual Tournament.

- (a) The Dual Tournament format is used for 4 person groups and uses the following structure. The highest-seeded player in each group will initially play the lowest seeded player in the group (Match A) and the two middle-seeded players will initially play each other (Match B). These two matches are called Initial Matches. The players who do not win their Initial Match are

placed into the Elimination Match. The players who win their Initial Match advance to the Winner's Match.

- (b) The winning players of each of the Initial Matches will play each other (Match C). This is called the Winner's Match. The player who does not win the Winner's Match is placed into the Decider Match. The player who wins the Winner's Match advances out of the group stage to the next stage.
- (c) The players who did not win the Initial Matches (Match A and Match B) face each other in the Elimination Match (Match D). The player who does not win the Elimination Match is eliminated. The player who wins the Elimination Match advances to the Decider Match.
- (d) The player who did not win the Winner's Match (Match C) and the player who won the Elimination Match (Match D) face each other. This is called the Decider Match (Match E). The player who does not win the Decider Match is eliminated. The player who wins the Decider Match advances out of the group stage to the next stage.

4.8 Prize Awards.

- (a) The awarding of prizes is void where prohibited or restricted. No purchase is necessary to enter Tournaments.
- (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 noncash 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 this Handbook 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.

4.9 Travel and Expenses.

Certain Tournaments may provide travel and expenses accommodations as part of that Tournament participation. The specifics of the travel and expenses will be outlined in the rules for that specific Tournament. In general, travel and expenses are governed by the following rules:

- (e) Blizzard will, at its cost, make the travel arrangements for those players who qualify for sponsored travel under the Tournament specific 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.
- (f) For a player to qualify for participation in any in-person game or match that is part of the Tournament program where in-person games or matches are necessary, that player must have all the necessary visas, passports and other travel documents required to travel to and work in countries where live Tournament 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 Tournament will be held will result in disqualification for that particular live Tournament.
- (g) All players are responsible for any and all costs and expenses associated with their participation in the Tournament and receipt of any prize that are not specifically designated as the responsibility of Blizzard in the Tournament specific rules.
- (h) Should a player who qualifies for participation in any in-person game or match that is part of the Tournament 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.

4.10 Off-stage Matches.

- (a) Certain Tournaments may require players to play matches while not being on stage during the broadcast. These matches are called off-stage matches. The schedule of off-stage and on-stage

matches is at the sole discretion of Blizzard. Players may not request on-stage- or off-stage matches. Off-stage matches may still be recorded and may be aired either in the future or during the broadcast at Blizzard's or third party Tournament organizer's sole discretion.

5. TOURNAMENT MECHANICS

5.1 General

This section covers general Tournament mechanics that are applicable to all Blizzard Tournaments. If individual Tournament mechanics differ from the specific mechanics outlines in this document, they will be outlined in the Tournament specific rules and will take precedence over these rules.

5.2 Collection

For all Tournament matches, each player will use Hearthstone card decks that he/she has created (using cards he/she has collected) on the region servers on Battle.net where the Tournament is played. Card decks created on other regions' servers are not eligible for play in Tournament matches.

In certain Tournaments, at its sole discretion, Blizzard will provide competitors with accounts for the purposes of Tournament play. In such cases Blizzard is under no obligation to, but will attempt to communicate this to players ahead of the Tournament.

5.3 Formats

Blizzard supports multiple Tournament formats for competitive matches with Conquest and Last Hero Standing being the most common formats. Other Tournament formats will be described in the program specific Tournament documents.

5.4 Best of X game matches

Most competitive Hearthstone matches use a best of X matches. The most typical format is a best of 5. A player wins a best of X match when they accumulate more than half of all possible game wins in that match. Individual program documents will describe the match formats for individual Tournaments.

5.5 Conquest

Conquest is the default Tournament format for Hearthstone Tournaments. Conquest format follows these rules:

- a. Each player must submit deck lists from unique classes prior to the Tournament. The number of decks a player must submit is governed by the number of games in the match structure and the presence or absence of a deck ban in the Tournament format. For a best of 5 Tournament format with a ban, players must submit 4 decks.
- b. A player must win one game with each of his unbanned decks to win the match.
- c. When a player wins a game, the deck used by the winning player cannot be used for the remainder of the match.
- d. The losing player can keep the same deck used or switch to a different deck of their choice.
- e. Players will be told what classes their opponent has available, but they won't know which class is picked until both players have picked.

5.6 Last Hero Standing. Last Hero Standing format matches will follow these rules:

- a. Each player must submit deck lists from unique classes prior to the Tournament. The number of decks a player must submit is governed by the number of games in the match structure and the presence or absence of a deck ban in the Tournament format. For a best of 5 Tournament format with a ban, players must submit 4 decks.
- b. Players must defeat each of the opponents unbanned decks to win the match
- c. When a player wins a game, the deck used by the losing player cannot be used for the remainder of the match.
- d. The winning player must continue playing with the winning deck. The losing player must switch to a different deck of their choice.
- e. Players will be told what classes their opponent has available, but they won't know which class is picked until both players have picked.

5.7 Bans and Picks. For Tournament formats that require players to ban opponent's decks or to pick their deck prior to start of the match use the following rules:

a. Initial

- (i) At the outset of the match, both players will ban one class (i.e., identify a class that his/her opponent will not be permitted to play that game). Both players will know their opponents' four chosen classes before banning. Both players will individually and in secret communicate their bans to the Tournament administrator in charge of their match at the same time "blind" (i.e., without knowing which class the other player banned). The player who is communicating their ban first must take care to ensure that their opponent cannot hear their ban selection. Each player has up to 2 minutes to select their ban.
- (ii) Once both players have communicated their ban selections to the Tournament official responsible for the bans and picks, the Tournament official will inform both players the ban selections for the match.
- (iii) Once both players know the bans for the match, each player has up to 3 minutes to select their first deck pick. Both players must individually and in secret communicate to the Tournament admin their picks. The player who is communicating their pick first must take care to ensure that their opponent cannot hear their pick.
- (iv) Players are not required to communicate ban and pick selections to Tournament officials in Tournaments using an online Tournament platform that supports the bans and picks process.

b. Subsequent games. Following game one, players may make their next deck selection within the game client, and if required, should communicate the selection to the Tournament officials.

5.8 Deck Lists.

Players must submit deck lists to Tournament officials within the timeframe outlined in the Tournament specific Tournament rules. When submitting deck lists, players must provide the Tournament officials with deck list codes through the method outlined in the Tournament specific rules. A screenshot of a deck is not a valid method to submit a deck list.

In the event of a dispute, the deck list code is the official record of the player's deck.

Some Tournaments will provide deck lists to registered players ahead of the start of the Tournament. In such cases, all players must have access to the deck lists at the same time.

6. PLAYER CONDUCT

6.1 Behavior.

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, Tournament organizers and members of the administration team, the media, sponsors and fans.

Players may not use obscene gestures or profanity in their Battle Tags, player handles, game chat, lobby chat or live interviews. This rule applies to English and all other languages in use in the Tournament and includes abbreviations and/or obscure references.

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.

Players must compete to the best of their ability at all times. Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Specific Cheating infractions are covered in Section 7.11, under Tournament infraction and penalties.

6.3 Illegal and Unethical Conduct.

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

A player may not, during any Tournament, 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.

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

In furtherance of this commitment, players engaged in the Tournament and Tournament 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.

Gambling on the outcome of Tournament games or matches can pose a serious threat to the integrity of Blizzard esports and public confidence in the Tournament. 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.

This rule also prohibits players from participating in anyone else's betting activities, asking anyone to place bets on Tournament games or matches on a player's behalf, or encouraging anyone else to bet on Tournament games or matches.

6.6 Alcohol and Drugs.

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 Tournament event.

The use, possession, distribution or sale of illegal drugs, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, is strictly prohibited while a player is engaged in Tournament events or on premises that are owned by or leased to Blizzard or a Tournament organizer.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Tournament schedule.

Players have the right to participate in non-official autograph signings, photo sessions and interviews that do not conflict with the official Tournament schedule.

6.9 Software

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 the Tournament. Blizzard, at its discretion, will determine bugs and exploits.

Blizzard, at its sole discretion may communicate to players a list of known bugs and the administrative outcomes of encountering such bugs in the game. These administrative outcomes may be an exception to the general bug or exploits policy.

6.10 Hardware

For Tournaments that require competitors to bring their own devices in order to participate in the Tournament (“BYOD Tournament”) players must follow rules outlined by the Tournament organizer regarding the specific equipment type that is allowed for the Tournament.

Tournaments that provide equipment to competitors follow these general rules. Unless explicitly authorized by a Tournament official, players are prohibited from adjusting any computer settings outside the settings of the game client. Players are prohibited from bringing or attaching their own electronic storage devices, peripherals including but not limited to keyboards, mice or headphones to the devices provided by the Tournament organizer.

At the request of Tournament officials for certain Tournaments, players must surrender to a Tournament administrator personal equipment including devices that may offer two way communication capabilities such as cell phones, tablet devices or smart watches while a game or a match is played. All personal equipment must be in an enclosed bag.

6.11 Restricted Sponsorships.

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 the Tournament, Blizzard needs to place some restrictions on sponsor categories.

The following sponsor categories will not be allowed for any player participating in the Tournament and/or Tournament events:

- a. Pornography (or materials that Blizzard or the Tournament organizer determines are the equivalent of pornography);
- b. Materials related to any illegal activities, including but not limited to lottery, gambling, websites that offer gambling, or any other service or product that abets, assists or promotes gambling;
- c. Alcohol;
- d. Tobacco or cigarettes, including vaping products;
- e. Firearms;

- f. Anything defamatory, obscene, profane, vulgar, repulsive, offensive or anything that describes or depicts any internal bodily functions, symptomatic results of internal conditions or refers to things that a reasonable person might consider socially unacceptable;
- g. Anything containing a trademark, copyrighted material or some other element of intellectual property that's used without the owner's consent or might subject the Tournament organizer and his affiliates to claims of infringement, misappropriation, or other forms of unfair competition;
- h. Any person or entity that offers products or services that Blizzard determines are detrimental to Hearthstone, the Tournament or Blizzard's business or that give one player an unfair advantage over another player, including but not limited to hacking, gold selling services, account sellers and key sellers; and/or
- i. Anything that disparages an opposing team or player or any other person, entity or product.

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 the Tournament, Tournament events and Hearthstone. Accordingly, Blizzard may designate certain sponsors or product categories as "reserved." Players participating in the Tournament and/or Tournament events will not be permitted to accept sponsorships from reserved sponsors or in reserved categories.

7. PLAYER INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES

7.1 Penalty List and Disciplinary Action

In order to preserve the integrity of the Tournament and Blizzard's reputation for open and fair competition, Blizzard will have the right to monitor compliance with the terms of this Handbook and impose sanctions for violations. This section covers different types of penalties that Tournament officials have at their disposal for Tournaments.

When Tournament organizers observe infractions in Tournaments, they will address the infraction with the player, advise them on the penalty for the infraction and advise the player on the consequences of continuing with similar infractions.

- a. **Warning.** A warning is an official recorded notice to a player for a minor Tournament infraction.
- b. **Game Loss.** A game loss is a forced automatic loss for a single game of Hearthstone. In formats where players are required to make decisions on subsequent deck selections a game loss penalty has additional rules and considerations. For Last Hero Standing Tournament formats, the player who received the game loss will choose what class is eliminated from their lineup. For Conquest Tournament formats the opposing player chooses what class is eliminated from the player's lineup. Game loss penalty should be applied towards the current game in progress. If there is no currently in-progress game, then the penalty is applied towards the next game. Players receiving the game loss penalty may continue their match, unless the game loss penalty resulted in the number of necessary wins for the opponent and ended the match.
- c. **Match Loss.** A match loss infraction is a forced automatic loss for the entire Tournament match. The match loss penalty should be applied towards the current match in progress. If there is no currently in-progress match, then the penalty is applied towards the next match.
- d. **Disqualification.** A disqualification from the Tournament is a result of the most egregious infractions for players in the Tournament. A player disqualified from the Tournament forfeits any prizes.

Penalties in the same Tournament for the same category of infractions escalate for each successive infraction. Tournament officials will use the following escalation path: *warning—game loss—match loss—disqualification* for repeated infractions of the same category. Infraction escalations do not carry over from Tournament to Tournament.

Players must bring Tournament infractions to the attention of Tournament officials and may not waive penalties on behalf of their opponents.

The above penalties do not carry over from one Tournament to the next Tournament.

In addition to the above penalties, Blizzard may impose additional sanctions against players participating in Tournaments during or after the Tournament, that may include the following:

- 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.

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 the Tournament.

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 the terms of this Handbook or applicable law is, itself, a violation of the Tournament Policy.

7.2 Failure to submit deck list

This infraction occurs when a player fails to properly submit a deck list or multiple deck lists to the Tournament prior to the deck list submission cutoff time. Submitting deck lists correctly and on time aids in Tournament operations and ensures that all competitors are playing with equal information during the Tournament.

The penalty for this infraction is a game loss applied towards the first game of the Tournament.

7.3 Deck list mismatch

This infraction occurs when a player enters a game with a deck that does not match the deck list the player submitted.

The penalty for this infraction is a game loss.

7.4 Wrong deck selection

This infraction occurs when a player incorrectly selects a deck during the match. This infraction can occur at the start of the match after the player has communicated their first deck selection to the

Tournament officials, or if the player incorrectly selects a banned or eliminated deck in subsequent games. Players are responsible for accurately selecting their decks during the Tournament.

The penalty for this infraction is a game loss.

7.5 Match tardiness

This infraction occurs when a player fails to arrive for their match on time. For online Tournaments, this infraction may also occur when at the start of the match, a player fails to be present in all Tournament official channels such as discord.

The penalty for this infraction is a warning, which may be upgraded to a match loss after 10 minutes after the official match start time. In addition to the penalty, Tournament officials will drop the offending player from the Tournament unless the player otherwise communicates to Tournament officials their desire to remain enrolled in the Tournament before the end of the current round.

7.6 Failure to check in on time

This infraction occurs when a player fails to check in on time for a physical Tournament with invited players that requires that players check-in ahead of Tournament start time. Players are required to arrive for player briefing and press obligations on time. Failure to arrive on time disrupts Tournament operations.

The penalty for this infraction is a game loss for checking into the Tournament up to 30 minutes after the cutoff time. At 30 minutes after the announced check in time, the player will be dropped from the Tournament.

7.7 Match and Game disconnects

This infraction occurs when a player disconnects from a match or a game. A match is considered to have started when both players enter the match lobby. A game is considered to have started when the starting hands are provided to players by the Hearthstone game client.

After the match started, if a player leaves the match lobby, or cancels the “game challenge,” or leaves the Hearthstone game client for any reason, they are considered to have disconnected from the match.

For Tournaments where deck lists are public for players, the penalty for a match disconnect infraction is a warning. In addition to the infraction, it is also appropriate for the players to restart the match. For Tournaments where deck lists are not public for players, the penalty for a match disconnect infraction is a game loss.

After the game have started, if player disconnects or otherwise closes the game client, they are considered to have disconnected from the game. Conceding the game using the normal game mechanics is an exception to this rule and is not an infraction.

Game disconnect infractions do not have penalties in two cases: (i) Live Tournaments where Blizzard controls the Tournament computers and the internet connection (for example Seasonal Playoffs, or World Championships); and where an entire Tournament network goes down at the Tournament venue.

All other cases follow the following rules and penalties:

- If a player disconnects and is absent between 0 minutes, 1 second and 4 minutes, 59 seconds, they receive a warning penalty.
- If a player disconnects and is absent between 5 minutes, 0 seconds and 9 minutes, 59 seconds, they receive a game loss penalty.
- If a player disconnects and is absent for 10 minutes or longer, they receive a match loss penalty. In addition, the player will be dropped from the Tournament, unless they specifically contact the Tournament officials with a request to stay in the Tournament.

Upgrading a penalty for a game disconnect infraction is different from the standard upgrade path. The penalty is never upgraded beyond a game loss penalty for subsequent infractions during the Tournament.

7.8 Failure to ban or pick

This infraction occurs when a player exceeds his or her allotted time to communicate a ban or a pick to the Tournament official responsible for the bans and picks. Players may not overly delay the Tournament with their decisions.

The penalty for this infraction is a warning.

7.9 Failure to follow Tournament announcements

This infraction occurs when a player fails to follow general Tournament announcements, or fails to read Tournament materials available to them prior to the start of the Tournament.

The penalty for this infraction is a warning.

7.10 Failure to follow Tournament official's specific instructions

This infraction occurs when a player fails to follow instructions from a Tournament official aimed specifically at that player, typically as a result of a corrective or advisory action the Tournament official took against the player. Tournament officials have the expectation that players follow their instructions the first time. Repeating Tournament instruction to individual players unnecessarily delays the Tournament and distracts officials from running the Tournament.

The penalty for this infraction is a game loss.

7.11 Cheating

Players must compete to the best of their ability at all times. Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Stream sniping, or any general attempt by a player to spectate his or her own match or get information from another person spectating the match.
- b. Any attempt to modify the Hearthstone client, play on an unofficial Hearthstone client or play with software or hardware that grants extra information not normally provided by the game client. Players may be required to install software on their computers for the duration of the Tournament which is specially designed to detect cheating. Some third party software programs aren't considered cheating. They include:
 - VOIP solutions such as Discord or Skype;
 - Keyboard or other equipment drivers and software; and
 - Any third party software specifically installed by the Tournament organizers to facilitate Tournament play.

- c. Impersonating another player in the Tournament, playing under a false name, 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.
- d. Attempts to damage or alter equipment to trigger a delay of the Tournament or gain any other advantage.
- e. Exploiting or intentionally using any in-game bug to seek an advantage.
- f. Influencing or manipulating a Tournament game or match so that the outcome is determined by anything other than its merits.
- g. 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.
- h. Attempts to interfere with another player's connection to the game service through Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) or any other means.
- i. Lying to or omitting information from Tournament officials.

If a player is asked to bet on, or "fix," any Tournament game or match, the player must immediately report this contact to Blizzard using the following email address: HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com.

The penalty for this infraction is a disqualification from the Tournament without prizes. In addition, the Tournament organizers will report cheating incidents to Blizzard. Blizzard at its sole discretion may conduct its own investigation and may issue additional sanctions against the player or players involved, including Blizzard account suspensions or suspensions from future Tournaments.

7.12 Unsporting conduct

This infraction occurs when a player exhibits behavior that Tournament organizers consider unacceptable during the normal operation of the Tournament. Unsporting conduct is disruptive to the Tournament and may negatively affect the safety, competitiveness, enjoyment, or integrity of a Tournament. Unsporting conduct has two sub categories outlined below:

- a. Minor

Players have the right to a safe and enjoyable Tournament experience. This infraction occurs when a player does something disruptive to the Tournament or its participants. Examples include, but not limited to:

- Excessive swearing or profanity;
- Demanding that an opponent receives a penalty after a Tournament official made it clear that he or she has issued his or her ruling;
- Throwing trash on the floor or otherwise littering at a venue.

The penalty for this infraction is a warning.

b. Major

This infraction covers a large category of behaviors that do not fall under the definition of minor unsporting conduct. They include:

- Intentionally breaking Tournament equipment issued by the organizer;
- Defacing the Tournament venue;
- Threatening a Tournament official or another player;
- Violence toward any Tournament participant, official or spectator;
- Theft.

The penalty for this infraction is a disqualification from the Tournament without prizes. In addition, the Tournament organizers will report cheating incidents to Blizzard. Blizzard at its sole discretion may conduct its own investigation and may issue additional sanctions against the player or players involved, including Blizzard account suspensions or suspensions from future Tournaments.

8. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

8.1 Applicability.

- a. This Section applies to and governs any Dispute that arises out of or relates to the Tournament, a Tournament Event, the Terms of this Handbook, any Tournament specific Rules, or the breach thereof.

8.2 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 any arbitration or court proceeding, unless one or more of the exceptions to negotiations and arbitration in Section 8.6 below apply.
- 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., 1 Blizzard Way, Irvine, CA 92618, Attn.: General Counsel.

8.3 Binding Arbitration.

- 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 8.6 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.

8.4 Arbitration 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.

8.5 Class and Collective Action Waiver.

- 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 8.0.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

8.6 Location of Arbitration.

- i. 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.
- ii. For residents outside the United States, any arbitration shall be initiated in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, United States of America.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.

8.7 Governing Law.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

9. LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND DISCLAIMERS

9.1 Cap on Liability; No Punitive Damages.

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.

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 (US \$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.

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 THE TERMS OF THIS HANDBOOK FAIL OF THEIR ESSENTIAL PURPOSE.

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.

9.2 Disclaimers.

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 Tournament 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 the Tournament or Tournament events.

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).

9.3 Changes to Your Battle.net Account.

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.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the Website Terms or the terms of this Handbook, the provision that is most protective of Blizzard will govern and control.

10. USE OF YOUR BRAND MATERIALS AND PERSONAL DATA

10.1 License to Use Your Brand Materials.

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.

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 the Tour (including any games, matches or other competitions that are part of the Tour) 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 the Tour.

10.2 Advertising Materials

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 sublicensees) to copy, display, distribute, edit, transmit, host, store and otherwise use Your Brand Materials, and create derivative works thereof, on or in connection with:

- a. 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.

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 shall require Blizzard or a member of the Blizzard Group to make use of any of the rights or licenses granted herein.

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 this Handbook.

10.3 Ownership of Advertising Materials, Feedback, Stats and Suggestions

As between you and Blizzard, you are the sole owner of Your Brand Materials. As between you and Blizzard, Blizzard shall be the sole owner of all of the following:

- a. Advertising Materials (but not Your Brand Materials that are incorporated into or used in the Advertising Materials);
- b. 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);
- c. Suggestions, comments and other feedback that you may provide to Blizzard relating in any

way to Hearthstone, the Tour, the Tour Events or the business of Blizzard and all improvements or enhancements to Hearthstone, the Tour, the Tour Events and the business of Blizzard resulting therefrom;

- d. Data and statistics relating to your play of Hearthstone during the Tour, and all feeds and data streams of such data and statistics; and
- e. Intellectual property rights in each of the foregoing.

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.

10.4 Collection of Personal Data.

Blizzard and Tournament organizers for Blizzard licensed Tournaments collected the information necessary to operate the Tournaments 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 the Tournaments.

Blizzard will collect, store, and use information collected in connection with the Tournament and any events surrounding the Tournament (including information collected at live events) in accordance with Blizzard's Online Privacy Policy.

11. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

11.1 Blizzard Copyrights and Trademarks

This Handbook, and all accompanying materials at Blizzard Tournaments are copyright © 2018 Blizzard Entertainment, Inc., and its respective licensors. All rights are reserved.

Nothing in this Handbook, or your participation in the Tournaments, 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.

11.2 Changes to Hearthstone

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 Tournaments.

You agree that Blizzard will not be liable to you for any changes to Hearthstone or the terms of this Handbook.

11.3 Changes to the terms of this Handbook

This Handbook contain the rules, policies and practices of the Blizzard for Tournaments that are in effect at the time of their publication.

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 the terms of this Handbook at any time, in its sole discretion, and to suspend, cancel or modify a Tournament or any player's participation in any Tournament should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of the Tournament, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running the Tournament as planned.

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 Tournament.

11.4 No Employment Relationship

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.

Nothing in this Handbook 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.

11.5 Communications

We both agree that these the terms of this Handbook constitute a written agreement signed by both you and Blizzard under applicable law.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, this Handbook, 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.

If you have any questions or comments about these this Handbook, please email them to HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com or send written questions to: **Hearthstone Tournament Handbook c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 93623.**

12. GLOSSARY

“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.

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

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

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

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

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

“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 the Tour, a Tour Event or these Official Rules, or the breach thereof.

“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 2018/2019 Hearthstone Tournament Player Handbook (*i.e.*, the terms as set forth this document).

“Website Terms” means the Battle.net® End User License Agreement applicable to your use of Battle.net, the Online Privacy Policy applicable to your use of Battle.net, and the other terms and conditions governing use of the Battle.net website.

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



2018/2019 HCT CHALLENGERS
OFFICIAL COMPETITION RULES

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1. INTRODUCTION

These 2018/2019 HCT Challengers Official Competition Rules (“Official Rules”) govern qualification for and competitive play of Tavern Hero Qualifiers, Challenger Cups, and Challenger Finals (“Tournament(s)”).

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

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

2. HEARTHSTONE CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR CHALLENGERS

2.1. Acceptance of the Official Rules.

- (a) You indicate your acceptance to these Official Rules if you enter and participate in any game or match that is part of the Tournament. Organizers indicate acceptance to these Official Rules, where applicable, if they submit an event application to host either a Tavern Hero Qualifier or Challenger Cup.
- (b) If you are under the age of majority (as described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook), your parent or legal guardian may accept these Official Rules on your behalf.
- (c) If you (or your parent or legal guardian) do not accept these Official Rules or you do not meet the player eligibility requirements in Section 3 below, you may not participate in the Tournament.

2.2. Applicability of the Official Rules.

- (a) These Official Rules govern play in the Tournament. These rules apply to competitions taking place in the Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe regions.
- (b) If you violate these Official Rules, Hearthstone Tournament Handbook 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 Handbook.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Regional Eligibility.

- (a) For portions of the Tournament 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 portion of the Tournament if, as of January 1, 2018 you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: United States, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- (c) You may participate in the Asia-Pacific portion of the Tournament if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: Australia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- (d) You may participate in the Europe portion of the Tournament if, as of January 1, 2018, you are a legal resident of one of the following counties: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, State of Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.
- (e) Eligibility, residency requirements, minimum age requirements and ineligible players are further described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document.

4. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

4.1 Tournament Rules

- (a) Hearthstone HCT tournaments are governed by these Official Rules and the terms contained in the Handbook.
- (b) For all Tour matches, each player will use Hearthstone card decks that he/she has created (using cards he/she has collected) in the region's servers where the tournament is held.

4.2 HCT Challengers Generally

- (a) Eligibility and qualification details for the HCT Challengers can be found in section 4.6 in the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour Official Competition Rules located at blizz.ly/HSrules.
- (b) Players that have won or earned a sufficient placement in a Tavern Hero Qualifier or Challenger Cup will earn an invitation into the online Challenger Finals for that season and the region which their Battle.net account is registered. No more than 256 Tavern Hero Qualifiers and 256 Challenger Cups will be held in a region per season.
- (c) Players are ineligible to compete in a Tavern Hero Qualifier or Challenger Cup or if they have:
 - i. Won a Challenger Finals Tournament in 2018.
 - ii. Qualified for the Challenger Finals in the current Season.
 - iii. Qualified for the Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournament for the last three consecutive seasons including the current Season.
- (d) Ineligible players that compete in a Tavern Hero Qualifier or Challenger Cup will immediately forfeit their invitation to that season's Challenger Finals, if applicable. If the ineligible player has not earned an invitation to that season's Regional Playoff, they will receive a warning instead, but will also forfeit their invitation to that season's Regional Playoff with any subsequent violations.

4.3 Tavern Hero Qualifiers

- (a) Tavern Hero Qualifiers must be free to enter and open to all eligible participants as described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document. The event description must clearly state the free entry and format.
- (b) Competing players must play all games of the Tavern Hero Qualifier in-person at the approved location of the Fireside Gathering hosting the Tournament. Details can be found on an event's Tournament page.
- (c) When hosting a Tavern Hero Qualifier, organizers:
 - i. Must use a Tournament platform that is approved by Blizzard to ensure a fair and

positive Tournament experience for all players to track results. Approved platforms typically contain features such as class pick and ban functionality, check-in systems, the ability to export Tournament results in specific file formats, various Tournament formats, waitlist features, and the ability to flag and resolve disputes. The approved platforms are:

- Battlefy
- ESGA
- ESL Play
- StriveWire

- ii. Must not compete in Tournaments hosted by themselves or their tavern.
- iii. Must submit results of the event within 7 days of the event's conclusion. Details about submission will be provided directly to approved organizers.
- iv. Tavern Hero Qualifiers may require a player to check-in at a specified time for the Tournament or each match. Failure to check-in may result in being dropped from the Tournament. Details can be found on an event's Tournament page.

(d) Tavern Hero Qualifier Requirements

- i. Tavern Hero Qualifiers are in-person Tournaments approved by Blizzard Entertainment to specific Tournament organizers who applied to host a qualifying event by applying on firesidegatherings.com and selecting the Tavern Hero Qualifier campaign option.
- ii. At least 16 participants must check in and play in the Tournament for the winner of the event to be awarded an invitation to the Seasonal Challenger Finals.
- iii. Only Innkeepers who have established a Tavern are eligible to host a Tavern Hero Qualifier event. [Click here](#) to learn more about Taverns and how you can start one.
- iv. Applications must be sent at least ten (10) days in advance.
- v. Innkeepers must select the Tavern Hero Qualifier campaign on the Fireside Gatherings webpage when creating the event—events not using the campaign feature will not be considered official Tavern Hero Qualifiers.
- vi. Innkeepers may host a maximum of 5 Tavern Hero Qualifiers each season.
 - Previous events must be reported with Tournament results before new events will be approved.

(e) Approved Formats

- i. Tavern Hero Qualifiers must use a format of Standard Best of 3 Conquest format with one ban. Each player in the Tournament will bring three (3) unique decks of

different classes.

- ii. Organizers of Tavern Hero Qualifiers must either use a double-elimination format or a Swiss pairings format with a single-elimination playoff. These formats are described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document.

4.4 Challenger Cups

- (a) Challenger Cups must be free to enter and open to all eligible participants as described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document. The event description must clearly state the free entry and format.
- (b) Challenger Cup, organizers:
 - i. Must use a Tournament platform that is approved by Blizzard to ensure a fair and positive Tournament experience for all players to track results. Approved platforms typically contain features such as class pick and ban functionality, check-in systems, the ability to export Tournament results in specific file formats, various Tournament formats, waitlist features, and the ability to flag and resolve disputes. The approved platforms are:
 - Battlefy
 - ESGA
 - ESL Play
 - StriveWire
 - ii. Must not compete in Tournaments hosted by their organization. Staff (volunteer or paid) of an approved organization may not compete in Tournaments held by their own organization.
 - iii. Must submit results of the event within 7 days of the event's conclusion. Details about submission will be provided directly to approved organizers.
 - iv. Challenger Cups may require a player to check-in at a specified time for the Tournament or each match. Failure to check-in may result in being dropped from the Tournament. Details can be found on an event's Tournament page.
- (c) Challenger Cup Requirements
 - i. Challenger Cups are online Tournaments approved by Blizzard Entertainment to specific Tournament organizers who applied to host Challenger Cups. Interested organizers may inquire about hosting events by emailing HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com with a brief description of their organization and event experience.

- ii. Only approved organizations may host Challenger Cups. Currently, the approved organizations are:
 - Black Claws
 - ESGA
 - ESL Gaming
 - Jarstorneos
 - Kyoto Esports
 - Latin Gaming Arena
 - StriveWire
 - Zotac Cup
 - iii. May be limited to holding a pre-determined number of Challenger Cups on a per-season, monthly, or weekly basis. Details will be shared with approved organizers by email.
 - iv. At least 32 participants must check in and play in the Tournament for the winner of the event to be awarded an invitation to the Seasonal Challenger Finals. A maximum of 128 participants may compete in one Challenger Cup.
 - v. Prizes must not exceed \$2,000 USD cash or equivalent.
 - vi. Applications must be submitted at least ten (10) days in advance.
- (d) Approved Formats
- i. Challenger Cups must use a format of Standard Best of 3 Conquest format with one ban. Each player in the Tournament will bring three (3) unique decks of different classes.
 - ii. Organizers of Challenger Cups must either use a double-elimination format or a Swiss pairings format with a single-elimination playoff. These formats are described in the Hearthstone Tournament Handbook document.

4.5 Challenger Finals

- (a) The Challenger Finals uses a format of Standard Best of 3 Conquest format with one ban. Each player in the Tournament will bring three (3) unique decks of different classes.
- (b) Challenger Finals are online Swiss Tournaments with a single-elimination playoff that are split into multiple brackets based on the number of participants. These brackets may be placed on two separate days based on the number of brackets. Players may choose which day to compete on a first-come, first-serve basis. Afterwards, all players will be distributed randomly among each day's brackets, then seeded randomly within them. Players will receive an email from

HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com no later than 3 days prior to the Tournament with registration instructions.

Challenger Finals Format		
Players	Brackets	Winners per Bracket
< 65	1	Top 8
65 to 128	2	Top 4
129 to 256	4 (2 per day)	Top 2
257 to 512	8 (4 per day)	Top 1

- (c) If a player wishes to drop from the Challenger Finals Tournament, they must notify a Tournament administrator before doing so. Being absent for a match can have an unfair impact on tiebreakers for the Swiss format, thus a player must notify an admin so they can be “dropped” from the Tournament to prevent themselves from being paired with a player when the next round begins. Failure to inform a Tournament admin of your departure while the Tournament is in progress may result in future sanctions against the player or their account including, but not limited to, ineligibility for future Hearthstone Esports events.

5. PRIZES

5.1. Prizes.

- (a) The players in these Tournaments will earn the following prizes:
- i. Placing 1st in a Tavern Hero Qualifier or Challenger Cup awards an invitation to the Seasonal Regional Challenger Finals.
 - Additional placements (2nd and below) in Challenger Cups may also provide invitations at the discretion of Blizzard Entertainment.
 - The eligible additional placements for the season will be announced on <https://www.playhearthstone.com/esports> prior to the season beginning.
 - ii. The top 8 players from the Seasonal Regional Challenger Finals will earn an invitation to the Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournament as described in section 5.2 of the 2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour Tournament Rules.

6. PLAYER CONDUCT

6.1. Player Conduct.

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

7. GENERAL (BUT IMPORTANT) TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Changes to these Official Rules.

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

7.2 Communications.

- (a) We both agree that these Official Rules and the Handbook together constitute a written agreement signed by both you and Blizzard under applicable law.
- (b) To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, these Official Rules, and any other notices, requests and other communications provided for herein, may be provided to you electronically, and you agree to receive all such communications from Blizzard electronic form. Electronic communications will be delivered to you at the email address listed on your Battle.net Account.

- (c) If you have any questions or comments about these Official Rules or the Tournament, please email them to HearthstoneAdmin@blizzard.com or send written questions to: **2018/2019 Hearthstone Championship Tour c/o Blizzard Entertainment Esports, P.O. Box 18979, Irvine, CA 9362**