



**2018 HEARTHSTONE® NATIONALS OFFICIAL
COMPETITION RULES**

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1. INTRODUCTION

These 2018 Hearthstone Nationals Official Competition Rules (“Official Rules”) govern qualification for and competitive play of Hearthstone in the 2018 Hearthstone Nationals (“Nationals”).

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 Nationals, 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 Nationals and receive prizes. Official Rules are explained below. The Handbook can be found here: blizz.ly/HSrules

2. HEARTHSTONE NATIONALS

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 Nationals.
- (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 Nationals.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Regional Eligibility.

- a) You may participate in the Nationals if, as of April 1, 2018, you are a citizen of one of the following countries: France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain and United Kingdom
- b) Eligibility, residency requirements, minimum age requirements and ineligible players are further described in section 3 of the Handbook.

3.2. Citizenship Requirements.

- (a) If you want to participate in the Nationals, you must provide Blizzard with proof that you are a citizen of one of the following countries: France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain and United Kingdom.
- (b) Nationals referees have the right to request proof of age, citizenship and residency at any stage of the tournament.

3.3. Resolving Multiple Regional Eligibility.

- (a) Players may not participate in the Nationals in multiple countries. Players who meet eligibility requirements in multiple countries need to select the country in which they elect to participate via the Registration Form. This declaration lasts for the duration of the Nationals.

4. HEARTHSTONE NATIONALS QUALIFICATION

4.1. Nationals Qualification Period.

- (a) Qualification for the Nationals shall commence on April 1, 2018, at approximately 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, and is expected to conclude on May 31, 2018.

- (b) To be eligible for qualification, players shall register via the Registration Form, which can be found here: <http://hearthstonenationals.com/>
- (c) Once the qualification period has ended, Blizzard will invite the top 64 registered Hearthstone Competitive Point earners from each of the eligible countries to play in the 2018 Hearthstone Nationals Tournament of their country.
- (d) If one or more players are tied for one of the top 64 slots, Blizzard will use the players' May Standard Ranked Play standings to determine who qualifies to their 2018 Hearthstone Nationals Tournament. Players with a higher May Standard Ranked Play finish will have priority.

4.2. Hearthstone Competitive Points.

- (a) Players selection for the Nationals will be based on their 2018 Hearthstone April and May Competitive Points Rank (“points”). You can find more information about Hearthstone Competitive Points in the 2018/2019 Hearthstone® Championship Tour Official Competition Rules.
- (b) Players finishing 1st through 4th place at a Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournament do not receive points as they are invited to play in the Seasonal Championship Tournaments and receive points there. For Nationals Qualification purposes, Players finishing 1st through 4th place at a Seasonal Regional Playoff Tournaments will be considered to have earned 12 points. For the avoidance of doubt, these earned points will not be used for any rank calculation or invitation consideration in any other HCT program outside of the Nationals program.

5. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

5.1. Tournament Rules.

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

5.2. Hearthstone Nationals Tournaments Generally.

- (a) Hearthstone Nationals Tournaments are country limited tournaments. Each eligible country will have its own Nationals Tournament, which is open only to players from that country.
- (b) The sixty-four (64) qualified National Players per eligible country will be invited by Blizzard to compete in their respective Hearthstone Nationals Tournament as detailed in section 4.1.
- (c) Blizzard, in its sole discretion, will determine the dates, times and locations for the Hearthstone Nationals Tournament Online Matches. You can find the dates, times and locations at playhearthstone.com/esports by clicking the “Nationals” article announcement link. Dates times and locations will be published no later than June 15, 2018.
- (d) Players will be randomly seeded into a standard Swiss-pairing style (“Swiss”) tournament, where they will compete over the internet for 6 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 Nationals Tournament. 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.
- (e) 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 that will be played until the National Champion is crowned. 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.
- (f) Matches during each Nationals Tournaments will play a best of five, Conquest with 1 ban format with four classes per player each match. Details on tournament formats are outlined in the Handbook.
- (g) All decklists will be revealed publicly before the starts of each Nationals Tournament.
- (h) The players in each Hearthstone Nationals Tournament will earn the following prizes:

Hearthstone Nationals Tournament	
1 st Place	USD 1,500
2 nd Place	USD 1,100
3 rd - 4 th Places	USD 600
5 th - 8 th Places	USD 300

5.3. Prize Awards.

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

5.4. Travel and Expenses.

- a) For terms and conditions relating to travel and expenses, see Section 4.9 of the Handbook.

6. PLAYER CONDUCT

6.1. Player Conduct.

- (a) Player conduct, rule infractions, penalties and disciplinary procedures for the 2018 Hearthstone Nationals 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 Blizzard for the Nationals 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 Nationals are superseded.
- (b) Blizzard reserves the right modify, change, delete or add to these Official Rules at any time, in its sole discretion, and to suspend, cancel or modify the Nationals or any player's participation in the Nationals should viruses, bugs, unauthorized human intervention, hacks or other causes beyond Blizzard's control affect the administration, security or proper play of the nationals, or Blizzard otherwise becomes (as determined in its sole discretion) incapable of running the Nationals 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 Nationals.

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 Blizzard Account.
- (c) If you have any questions or comments about these Official Rules or the Nationals, please email them to Tourneyinfo-EU@blizzard.com.

8. GLOSSARY

“**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 April 1, 2018, at approximately 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

“**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.

“**Official Rules**” means the 2018 Hearthstone Nationals 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.

“**Registration Form**” refers to a web page containing a registration form that allows you to sign up for the Nationals Tournament.

“**Nationals Period**” means the period starting on the Commencement Date and continuing through the end of the Nationals period, which is expected to conclude on or about June 30, 2018.

“**Website Terms**” means the Blizzard® End User License Agreement applicable to your use of Blizzard’s online services, the Online Privacy Policy applicable to your use of Blizzard’s online services, and the other terms and conditions governing use of the Blizzard website. The current version of the End User License Agreement for European Blizzard account holders is found at <http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/legal/eula.html> and the current version of the Online Privacy Policy for European Blizzard account holders is found at <http://eu.blizzard.com/en-gb/company/about/privacy.html>.