2025 AGHS Championship Tournament Qualifier Rules and Regulations

General Information

The 2025 AGHS Championship Tournament Qualifier is a two-day tournament where players will compete for a chance to participate in the 2025 AGHS Championship Tournament. The 2025 AGHS Championship Tournament is a prestigious event designed to recognize the best youth Go players in North America. The top two players from each of the top four divisions will be selected to play in the 2025 AGHS Championship Tournament in February (stay tuned). Players who are not placed in the top four divisions will still be eligible for prizes in this event.

Registration Form: [Here](#)
The deadline to register is January 17th, 11:59 PM EST.

We will also contact those in the top four divisions before the event to confirm registration. Please make sure you register with a valid email address that can receive emails from us (e.g., non-school email).

Eligibility
All players **under the age of 19** and living in North America are eligible to participate.

Where
All games will be held on KGS in the AGHS Tournament Room. For more information on how to use KGS, please refer to the tutorials on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Schedule
This tournament will be held on Sundays, January 19th and January 26th.

Round 1: January 19th, 12 PM EST (9 AM PST)
Round 2: January 19th, 2 PM EST (11 AM PST)
Round 3: January 26th, 12 PM EST (9 AM PST)
Round 4: January 26th, 2 PM EST (11 AM PST)

How it Works

Players will be split into two groups based on rank and then registration date. ONLY the top group will serve as the qualifier for the AGHS Championship Event in February. However, both sets are eligible for prizes. So register EARLY.

Group 1 (Qualifier): The players will be in the qualifier for the AGHS Championship Tournament. There will be four divisions created in the following format, with player numbers representing player ranks in descending order (P1 is the highest-seeded player, P32 is the 32nd-seeded player in terms of rank). The Top two players of each division will qualify for the AGHS Championship Tournament.

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
P1	P2	P3	P4
P8	P7	P6	P5
P9	P10	P11	P12
P16	P15	P14	P13
P17	P18	P19	P20
P24	P23	P22	P21
P25	P26	P27	P28
P32	P31	P30	P29

Group 2: The players will be eligible for prizes and pairings will be done by rank. HOWEVER, this group cannot qualify for the Championship Tournament.

Pairings will be emailed to those who registered shortly after registration closes.

Game Settings:
There will be no handicaps in all divisions.

Game Rules:
- 19x19 Board
- **AGA Rules (7.5 komi)**

Time Settings:
- 30 minutes main time
- 3x30 seconds byo-yomi.

Game Protocols:
No one other than the TDs may speak to players during a game. Speaking to anyone else during the game will result in a penalty. If a player disconnects during the game, contact a TD immediately.

Players should also maintain sportsmanlike conduct throughout the tournament.

Cheating of any form is strictly prohibited; if you feel your opponent has cheated in any way, email aghsregister@gmail.com AFTER the round. We will make the final decisions.

In the event of any other disputes, also immediately contact a TD. If you think the TD made an error, email aghsregister@gmail.com. The TDs will be the final judges of all results.

Rescheduling/Forfeit Policy:

Players who are late to the game by more than **15 minutes** will be considered as forfeiting.

Unfortunately, there is no rescheduling for this event.

Ranks (Updated!)

To prevent issues with sandbagging i.e. registering at a lower rank than one's actual level or featherbagging i.e. registering at a higher rank than one's actual level, we will verify the ranks of all participants according to the following procedure:

★ Players with **a stable rank** on a popular online Go server should provide us with the server they play most on, their rank on that server, and their username on that server. Accepted servers include KGS, OGS, IGS, Fox, Tygem, and WBaduk. There will be a space on the registration form to provide this information.
  ○ Using the Go rank conversion charts here (Chart 1, Chart 2); we will adjust ranks to their equivalent KGS ranks.
★ Players with an **AGA rank** SHOULD also provide us with their AGA number on their registration form. We will use the above conversion chart to convert to an equivalent KGS rank.
★ Players who demonstrate significant improvement over the course of the tournament should continually update their ranks when their ranks change. **We reserve the right to adjust players' ranks when we believe a rank no longer accurately demonstrates a player's playing strength–changes like these will be rare and will be supported by a group of strong players, including professionals.**
★ Players without verified ranks may have their ranks adjusted at any time by us if we determine that they are playing at a higher or lower level than their rank indicates--**changes like these will be rare and will be supported by a group of strong players, including professionals**.

Scoring
● 1 point is awarded for a win (marked green)
● 0.5 points for an assigned bye (marked cyan)

- 0 points for a loss (marked red)
- 0 points for a requested bye (marked white)
- 0 points for a forfeit (marked crimson)

Tiebreakers will be broken in the following order:
1. Head-to-head result
2. SOS
3. SODOS

If players are still tied after these tiebreakers, they will share the same final standings. In the event that two tied players are competing for qualification for the Championship Tournament, they will be required to play an additional tiebreaker game.

Prizes

In order to be eligible for a prize, you must finish all your assigned games. In other words, no forfeits or requested byes.

As previously mentioned, the top two players in the top four divisions will be eligible to participate in the Championship Tournament in February. Such players will not be awarded prizes in the Championship Tournament Qualifier but will receive prizes from the Championship Tournament.