

2025 Tournament Circuit Changes

Summary of Changes

- Majors
 - Now called Nationals
 - Number of Nationals reduced from 8 to 4, loosely* scheduled once per season
- Tier 1
 - Now called Regionals**, no other changes
- Tier 2
 - Will no longer exist
- Tier 3
 - Now called Locals
 - Minimum teams needed to receive Circuit Points reduced to 6 (previously 8)
 - No major changes except restrictions on caps (see below)
- Prize pool
 - All level of tournaments will follow the same prize pool split, see more in Prize Pool section below

**Scheduling for Nationals will avoid conflicts with WAKTC and major holidays, ensuring the best possible timing for throwers to participate.*

***Regionals are completely different from the previous regional tournaments hosted by WATL and have no similarities to them.*

Nationals and Regionals will not be scheduled within a 6-hour drive of each other or within the same region within a 2-3 week timeframe (dependent on region and thrower density). Local tournaments have no scheduling restrictions but may be reviewed based on their proximity to other events. All scheduling restrictions are subject to change depending on the region, time of year, and thrower density in the area.

Reason for the Changes

The reduction of Majors (Nationals) and the removal of Tier 2 tournaments are a response to supply and demand challenges. In 2024, many tournaments struggled to meet minimum participation due to an excess of events and a limited number of throwers able or willing to travel, largely because of rising travel costs. By reducing the number of Majors (Nationals), we aim to boost demand and accessibility for these events in 2025. Eliminating Tier 2 tournaments also helps streamline the system, allowing us to more effectively schedule tournaments with only 3 tiers throughout the year.

2025 TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

[Current structure linked here for reference](#)

Sanctioned WATL Tournaments are placed within a tiered tournament system; Nationals, Regionals, and Locals.

All tournaments (except for Locals) must run at least 2 hatchet divisions, including Open (played on Pro rules) and Amateur (played on Amateur rules) brackets. Rec* and Amateur throwers may register for either the Open OR Amateur Division, but not register for both at the same tournament. Pro throwers may only register for the Open division. **Rec throwers may participate in sanctioned tournaments but will not receive Circuit Points for placement.*

Each division and discipline hosted in any tier level must have at least 8 throwers or teams* to be considered for Circuit Points in that division/discipline. **Locals have a reduced requirement for Duals of 6 teams to be considered for Circuit Points.*

For all tournaments, Circuit points are awarded in all disciplines based on the number of participants in that discipline

Nationals

Nationals are the largest tournaments on the circuit. There are 4 hosted each year, loosely scheduled once per league season. WATL will accept tournament proposals from all interested affiliates and determine 4 hosting facilities to be scheduled by the beginning of the year, or prior for early year tournaments.

- The top 8 finishers in Amateur Hatchet will earn automatic entry to the Amateur Championship.
 - Bids do not trickle, any extra bids from multiple placements will be filled via Amateur Circuit Point standings.
- Must host: Amateur Hatchet (Amateur rules for all participants), Open Hatchet (Pro rules for all participants), Big Axe, and Duals.
- Prize pool payout is a minimum of 50% of entry fees plus additional, added cash.
- *All National tournaments will automatically get bids for WKTL Standard and WKTL Duals if they wish to host.*

Venues will submit proposals to be reviewed by WATL to choose 4 Nationals. Proposals must include:

- Prize pool above minimum of 50% of entries. The better the prize pool proposal, the better chance of earning a National tournament.
- Designated Head Judge that is not participating in the event*.
 - WATL recommends that a WATL-appointed Head Judge oversee National tournaments, if possible.
- Designated, experienced bracket manager that is not participating in the event*.

**If a dedicated Head Judge or bracket manager cannot be found for the entire event, the Head Judge or bracket manager may manage other disciplines/brackets but not their own.*

Regionals

These are potentially smaller than Nationals, with smaller prize pool requirements. These tournaments will follow the same format as Nationals, except no bids will be awarded to Amateurs. Venues will submit a request to host within 8 weeks of the start date. WATL will review the request and either approve for a Regional or designate as a Local.

- Must host: Amateur Hatchet (Amateur rules for all participants), Open Hatchet (Pro rules for all participants), Big Axe, and Duals.

- Prize pool payout is a minimum of 50% of entry fees plus \$1,000 minimum added cash.
- *Regionals will be prioritized for WKTL standard and WKTL Duals bids if they want to host, but not guaranteed, depending on schedule and hosting capability.*

In order to be chosen for a National or Regional tournament, hosts must have met the following requirements in 2024:

- Hosted a Tier 3 or larger event
- Sent the required feedback form to their roster after the completion of their event
 - Feedback from throwers is considered in the final decision
- Displayed good organizational skills (rosters and information management)
- Communicative with the WATL team and throwers
- Produced a strong bid, including an added cash component to the prize pool, designated Head Judge, and designated bracket manager
- Must be reasonably, in WATL's judgment, capable of fulfilling the commitments submitted in their bids

Locals

Local tournaments may host any combination of disciplines. Venues will submit a request to host within 4 weeks of the start date.

- Hatchet may be thrown under one Open Division (played on Amateur rules).
 - This is the only time when the Open division may be played under the Amateur ruleset and the only time a Pro thrower can compete under that ruleset.
 - If hosting one Hatchet division, must cap registrations at 48 throwers.
- If hosting Duals, only 6 teams are required to be considered for Circuit Points.
- Prize pool payout is a minimum of 50% of entry fees, no added cash is required.

Prize Pool Requirements

All levels of tournaments will follow a 75/25 prize pool split for Hatchet, with a 20% sliding scale. Prize pool requirements for Big Axe and Duals will not change.

Base Split:

- The prize pool will start with **75%** of the total Hatchet prize money going to the Pro division and **25%** going to the Amateur division.

Sliding Scale:

- As Amateur registrations increase, their share of the prize pool also increases. The more Amateur throwers that participate, the more money they get.
- The Amateur prize share can go up by as much as **15%** (capped at 40%), depending on how many are registered in Amateur compared to the total number of throwers in both divisions.

How it Works:

1. **Base Numbers:**
 - The Amateur division starts with a base of 25% of the prize pool.
2. **Increasing Share:**

- As the number of Amateur rises, their share gradually increases up to a max of **40%**.

3. Example:

- If **10 out of 50** throwers are Amateur (20%), they'll get a small bump, **29%**, while the Pros get **71%**.
- If **30 out of 50** are Amateur (60%), they'll get a bigger bump, **37%**, while the Pros get **63%**.

The Amateur division has an opportunity to earn a larger share of the prize pool, but the Pros will still receive the majority, particularly when there are fewer Amateur throwers. The sliding scale adjusts the balance depending on the number of Amateur participants.

Examples

To explain the math, let's use the example of a tournament with 16 Pro and 27 Amateur players.

1. Determine the % of Amateur throwers in comparison to total Hatchet registrations
 - a. $27 + 16 = 43$ total
 - b. $27 / 43 = 0.628 = 63\%$ are Amateur
2. Take the % of Amateur times the sliding scale (20%)
 - a. $.6 \times .2 = 0.12$
3. Add that to the base split (25%)
 - a. $.12 + .25 = .37 = \mathbf{37\% \text{ of the total Hatchet prize pool goes to Amateur}}$

For another example, we'll use a tournament with 33 Pro and 35 Amateur players.

4. Determine the % of Amateur throwers in comparison to total Hatchet registrations
 - a. $33 + 35 = 68$ total
 - b. $35 / 68 = 0.515 = 52\%$ are Amateur
5. Take the % of Amateur times the sliding scale (20%)
 - a. $.52 \times .2 = 0.104$
6. Add that to the base split (25%)
 - a. $.104 + .25 = .354 = \mathbf{35\% \text{ of the total Hatchet prize pool goes to Amateur}}$

Additional Prize Pool Changes

- Venues are encouraged to charge the same ticket price for both Hatchet divisions, but are not required
- If a venue wishes to add additional cash (above the required added cash requirements) to the Amateur prize pool, they may do so.
 - *Current restrictions require added cash to be dispersed evenly.*
 - *This does not apply to the added cash requirements for larger tournaments; that added cash is still required to be added evenly.*

All other prize pool requirements for 2024 (listed below) still apply.

- Required added cash must be evenly distributed between all disciplines OR distributed based on participation percentages. *For example, you have 100 total unique throwers, of which 65 are throwing in Big Axe - the Big Axe prize pool would receive 65% of your added cash.*
- If a % higher than the minimum 50% is advertised to be paid out, that is considered part of the prize pool and cannot be allocated at the venue's discretion - it is to be distributed via the depth minimums. Any additional "added cash" (not % of ticket sales) on top of the required minimum may be allocated as stated above. *For example, a Regional advertising 60% of the prize pool, that full 60% is paid out*

following the minimum depth requirements. If 50% + \$500 is advertised, the 50% is paid out following the minimum depth requirements and the \$500 can be allocated at the venue's discretion.

- Unless clearly communicated prior to the start of the tournament, last minute additions to the prize pool must be added to the total and follow the percentage guidelines. *For example, adding \$100 to the prize pool after the tournament is under way or ended must be added to the total pool and paid out based on % breakdowns, not allocated at the venue's discretion.*
- WATL strongly encourages tournaments to pay out on the final day of the tournament to winners. This will be part of the bid process for Nationals and will have weight in the decision on assigning those tournaments. Payouts **MUST** be made no later than 2 weeks after the tournament, or the venue may face sanctions from WATL. *Including but not limited to; revoked access to the App, pause in all ordering privileges, and loss of Affiliate benefits until payments are made.*
- All tournaments will confirm the prize pool payouts with WATL before the tournament to ensure consistency is being maintained, and make best efforts to publish this prior to the tournament start.
- All sanctioned tournaments will follow a set payout breakdown for each discipline depending on the number of throwers* participating (see the table below for the outline of payout requirements). **Duals payout depths are based on the number of teams, not throwers.*
 - Pro Hatchet - depth payout follows the tier for TOTAL number of throwers in both Hatchet divisions
 - Amateur Hatchet - depth payout follows the tier for total number of Amateur throwers only

All payouts will follow the payout structure at a minimum. You CAN pay out deeper than the stated minimum depth, however if you do so, you must still meet the minimum payout amounts of your depth tier. *For example, a 50 person tournament (payout minimum top 6) wants to payout top 8 instead. The prize pool is \$1000, you must still pay out the minimum amounts from top 6 and add to the prize pool to meet those minimums.*

Paying top 6 40-80		Paying top 8 80-120		Paying top 6 40-80		Paying top 8 80-120	
Total Prize:	\$1,000	Total Prize:	\$1,000	Total Prize:	\$1,000	Total Prize:	\$1,200
40.00%	\$400	35.00%	\$350	40.00%	\$400	35.00%	\$420
25.00%	\$250	25.00%	\$250	25.00%	\$250	25.00%	\$300
15.00%	\$150	15.00%	\$150	15.00%	\$150	15.00%	\$180
10.00%	\$100	10.00%	\$100	10.00%	\$100	10.00%	\$120
5.00%	\$50	5.00%	\$50	5.00%	\$50	5.00%	\$60
5.00%	\$50	5.00%	\$50	5.00%	\$50	5.00%	\$60
		2.50%	\$25			2.50%	\$30
		2.50%	\$25			2.50%	\$30