2025-2026 NA-UK Youth Go Tournament Rules and Details

American Go Honor Society x British Go Association

The NA-UK Youth Go Tournament is a joint tournament collaboration between the American Go Honor society and the British Go Association. Through a collaborative team tournament, participants will be given an opportunity to interact virtually with players from across the globe.

Purpose

The NA-UK Youth Go Tournament brings together youth players from North America and the UK to foster international connections and cultural exchange, as well as to support the growth of its respective youth Go communities. Beyond competition, it's a platform for international friendship, skill-building, and cultural understanding.

Eligibility

All youth under the age of 18 and residing in either North America (the United States, Canada and Mexico) or the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) are able to participate.

Registration Deadline: October 9th, 11:59PM EDT

How it Works

- Location: KGS, AGHS Tournament Room
  - How to access the tournament room: The room can be accessed by going to "Rooms" on the upper left --> "Room List" --> "Tournaments" --> "AGHS Tournament Room" (This should be on the top of the list).
  - **Tutorial on how to download/use KGS**: https://aghs.us/tutorials/.
- Pairings:
  - Players will be organized into teams of 4 by our tournament directors, in descending order of rank (highest rank is the first chair, lowest rank is the fourth chair) with the strongest player appointed as the team captain. Teams will be organized to create balance (a mix of high and low level players)
  - **Each team will have at least 1 player from the UK, and 1 player from North America**
  - Each team will be placed in a division placed on their collective team rank. Teams of similar collective ranks will be paired.
  - Players of two teams which are paired together will face off individually against the same chair of the opposing team .

- Each team in the pair will be given a total score based on the amount of games won in that round (1 point for each win, 0 points for each loss). The team with the higher score wins the match.
- If a 2-2 score arises between two teams, the result of the team captain (strongest player)'s match will play the deciding factor.

● **Handicaps:**
  ○ Handicap games will be offered with only up to **6 stones handicap maximum**, regardless of further rank difference.
  ○ **Handicap = rank difference - 2**.

● Scoring/Tiebreaks:
  ○ In case of a tie between two teams with an equal number of wins, the following tiebreakers are used (in order) :
    ■ Head-to-head result
    ■ Sum of opponents' scores (SOS)
    ■ Sum of defeated opponents' scores (SODOS)
  ○ If teams are still tied, they will share the same place.

Game Settings/Rules

● **Board Size**: 19x19 board
● **Rule Set**: **AGA Rules**
● **Time Limit:** 45 minutes main time and 5 periods of 30-second byo-yomi
● **Komi**: **7.5 points** in an even game, 0.5 points during a handicap game unless otherwise stated.
● By default, the white player should create the game. However, if the white player is having difficulties, the black player may create the game too. In the case of an even game, either player can make the game and KGS will decide the color selection.
● **Handicaps ARE PROVIDED** in this tournament. Please see the "How it Works" section for details.

Interactive Game Review Workshop

● Platform: Zoom
● A Go professional will be invited to review the top games. There will be interactive elements where players will be given a chance to participate and engage with other players.
● All participants of the tournament are welcome to attend the workshop.

Schedule

- **Round 1**: Sunday, October 12th @ 8AM PDT / 11AM EDT / 4PM BST
- **Round 2**: Sunday, October 12th @ 11AM PDT / 2PM EDT / 7PM BST
- **Interactive Game Review Workshop**: October 18th @ 11AM PDT / 2PM EDT / 7PM BST
- **Round 3**: Sunday, October 19th @ 8AM PDT / 11AM EDT / 4PM BST
- **Round 4**: Sunday, October 19th @ 11AM PDT / 2PM EDT / 7PM BST

Forfeit Policy & Rescheduling

- Please be on time. Failure to show up **15 minutes** after the designated time will result in an automatic forfeit.
- Byes must be requested before the tournament starts.
- In **extenuating circumstances only**, rescheduling will be allowed for rounds 2 and 4 (ONLY if both players agree)

Ranks

- To prevent issues with sandbagging (registering at a lower rank than one's actual level) or featherbagging (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 and at least ten rated games within the last 2 months 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 Baduk.
    - We will be using the conversion charts here (tinyurl.com/y22vndhc).
  - We reserve the right to adjust players' ranks when we believe a rank no longer accurately demonstrates a player's playing strength.
  - 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
- Rank adjustments will all be supported by a group of strong players, including professionals (rank adjustments between NA and UK standards are not necessary, as the ranking systems are similar).

Prizes

The players in the top team in each division will be awarded a trophy prize each. Players residing in North America will have their trophy provided by the AGHS, while players residing in the United Kingdom will have their trophy provided by the BGA.