

# How to Write a Ruleset

*A simple guide to help you create fair, consistent, and easy-to-follow rules for your tournaments — regardless of game title or format.*

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## Why It Matters

Clear rules prevent confusion, disputes, and uneven experiences. A well-written ruleset sets expectations for players and makes your life as an organizer way easier.

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## Structure of a Good Ruleset

### 1. Basic Event Info

Start with what people need to know up front and center:


- **Game title(s)**

- **Platform(s)** (Switch, PC, Xbox, etc.)
  - **Date, time, and venue**
  - **Format** (1v1, 2v2, double elim, round robin, etc.)
  - **Bracket platform + link(s)** (Start.gg, Challonge, etc.)
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## 2. Game Settings

List the in-game settings all matches will use:

- Timer, stocks, match length, etc.
- Map/stage pool
- Restrictions or bans

 **Pro Tip:** Link to the game's official competitive rulebook (if one exists) to cover all your bases. Naturally you will want to customize your event to your liking, but using the official competitive rulebook is a nice thing to fall back on and/or fill in the gaps of your own.

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## 3. Match Format

Define how matches work:

- Best-of-1, Bo3, or Bo5
  - How side selection (e.g. Red vs Blue) or character pick works
  - Sudden death or tiebreaker scenarios
  - Timeouts or pauses (what's allowed and when)
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## 4. Match Flow & Check-In

Help players know what to expect:

- When players are expected to show up and play matches
  - How long they have to show up once called (5–10 min grace period)
  - Where to report results and where to report
  - What to do if they need the assistance of an admin
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## 5. Dispute Handling


Establish how you'll handle issues:

- First offense = warning
  - Repeat offenses = disqualification
  - Admin rulings are final (i.e. very important depending on the game title)
  - Technical disputes (e.g., DCs) = replay or admin call
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## 6. Player Behavior Expectations

Create a safe, respectful environment:

- No harassment, toxicity, or offensive behavior
- Respect venue, gear, and other players
- Cheating = instant DQ and possible ban

 **Pro Tip:** establish CLEAR and concise rules so people understand what the penalty is for crossing lines. Need help with player conduct rules? Check out our [FREE](#) template here.

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## 7. Optional: Game-Specific Rules

Include any **title-specific** rules:

- **Smash Bros.:** Stage striking rules
- **Rocket League:** Team color rules
- **Valorant:** Agent restrictions or overtime format

*Each game title is different, so be mindful of what best practices are! Have questions? Feel free to join our [Discord](#) and we'll assist you!*

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## Free Tools You Can Use

<u>Tool</u>	<u>What It Does</u>
<a href="#">Challenge</a>	Full suite event management + registration
<a href="#">Start.gg</a>	Full suite event management + registration
<a href="#">Game Ruleset Library</a>	Links to popular competitive rulebooks (e.g. Smash, RL, LoL)

## Powered by Carolina Gaming

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