This is a live document that summarizes the newest updates to the Pandanet-AGA City League. Please refer to the rules page for more details.

9/16/2025 Updates

Format Update

- 4v4 format
    - Matches will now be 4v4 instead of 3v3, and matches will end in a draw if they end 2-2. Teams that win a match will earn 2 match points, teams that draw a match will earn 1 match point, and teams that lose a match will earn 0 match points. In preseason and postseason matches, the first board will serve as a tiebreaker if the match ends 2-2.
- Maximum of one remote player per team
    - Teams may now include one player who resides outside of the team's city (or 50 mile diameter). The remote player must still primarily reside in North America for the entirety of the season. This allows players who do not live near a local Go community to participate, and also makes getting a 4th player easier for teams who previously could only field 3 players.
    - A player who has a local team participating in the A League or B League may not join a different city's team in either league as a remote player. If a new team qualifies directly into B League during the preseason, any remote players local to that team may continue playing for a different city's team for that season, but must switch to their local team if it remains in A League or B League the following season.
    - A remote player who played in A/B/C League may only join a different team as a remote player in the following season if his or her original team disbanded during the offseason or doesn't register for that season.
- Maximum of 6 handicap stones for E League (or whatever the lowest league is)

League Schedule

- Rounds will span 4 weeks instead of 3 weeks this season.

Prize Pool Update

- Unfortunately, I am limited by the budget provided by Pandanet for the prize pool, so the prize pool has decreased from last year (before there was a surplus from the covid years for increased prizing over the past couple years). The A League 3rd place prize has increased a little, and the 5th place prize has been removed. In B League, the 3rd place prize has decreased a little, and the 4th place prize has been removed. In C League, the prizing has increased compared to pre-covid years, but decreased a little compared to recent years. There is no cash prize for D League and below for the upcoming season.

Camera Policy Update

- For D League and below, the camera policy is now optional (though still encouraged). Please see the webcam section on the website for more details. The camera is still mandatory by default for A League, B League, and C League, and some clarifications have been added.

Board Order Flexibility

- Teams may freely choose their board order before the season starts (before preseason for A/B league), but the board order is locked in until the end of the regular season.

Subbing Alternate Players Advance Notice

- Teams must give at least 4 days notice to the opposing team if an alternate will be playing in that round.Teams must give at least 4 days notice to the opposing team if an alternate will be playing in that round.

11/17/2024 Updates

League Structure

- The league will consist of two parts; the Preseason and the Regular Season (plus A League finals). Preseason will not start until Season 14.
- The Regular Season will consist of a maximum of 7 rounds (single round-robin)
- Preseason will be one round for teams who have a relegation/promotion match based on the final standings of the previous Regular Season (see promotion/demotion changes below).
- Tiebreaks (after match points) will look at board points, then head-to-head wins, then # of Board 1 wins, then # of Board 2 wins, and finally number of Board 3 wins

Player Eligibility and Residency Rules

- Players must have an active AGA or CGA membership throughout the entirety of the season, or else their games will be auto-forfeited.
- Players on the same team should live within the same city lines or within roughly a 50-mile diameter (upper bound) of each other. This is just a guideline and not a hard rule; exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Undergraduate college students who live in their school's city during the academic year but return to their home city during school breaks are eligible to play for either their school's city or their home city.
- Teams that have egregiously broken the residency rule may be subject to immediate disqualification.

Promotion/Demotion between Leagues and new team entry into B League (starting Season 14)

- 6th/7th place finishers in A League will play a relegation match against the 3rd/2nd place finishers in B League
- 2nd place in C League will now also be promoted to B League, and 7th place in B League will be demoted to C League

- New teams (up to 2) with an average rank of 6.66 dan or higher based on the top 3 players of the team may directly enter B League if there are open spots from teams not returning between seasons, or play a qualifier match against the 6th and 5th place B League teams respectively. The losers of these matches will be entered into C League.
- There will be no promotion/demotion between C League and lower leagues (D, E, etc.).

Game Rules

- All games will be 60 minutes main time+**5x30 seconds byo-yomi**
- A tie result will only occur for game-related reasons such as a triple ko; non-scheduled games where both teams have been negligent will be a double forfeit.

Game Scheduling

- There is no more default time; teams are expected to schedule their matches with each other in a timely fashion.

A-League Stream and Finals

- One A-League match per round will be streamed live on AGA livestream channels; all players on the two teams must be present to play at the same time.
- A-League Finals must be played in-person (all three boards); a team that reaches the Finals but is unable to field three players will forfeit its position to the next highest-placing team