

A Basic Magic: The Gathering Event Lexicon

An event can fall into one of two broad categories, each of which can be broken down into smaller ones.

1. A **Constructed** event is one in which the players bring a deck already built, and the store does not need to provide product (other than what goes into the prize pool). Constructed events are broken down by format, which essentially determines the card pool from which the players may build their decks. These formats are described below. The formats we will most likely use are denoted by *.
 - a. **Standard***: This uses the most recent two blocks' worth of cards, as well as the most recent Core Set (or two). As of this writing (August 27, 2011), Standard includes these sets: *Zendikar*, *Worldwake*, *Rise of the Eldrazi*, *Magic 2011*, *Scars of Mirrodin*, *Mirrodin Besieged*, *New Phyrexia* and *Magic 2012*. The cards **Jace, the Mind Sculptor** and **Stoneforge Mystic** are banned in Standard. [Note: On September 30, 2011, when *Innistrad* is released, it will be legal in Standard, and the first four sets on the above list will rotate out.] [More details.](#)
 - b. **Legacy***: This format allows cards from every set ever printed (although there is an extensive banned list). [More details.](#)
 - c. **Extended**: This format uses everything legal in Standard, plus a few years' worth of extra sets. [More details.](#)
 - d. **Vintage**: This format allows cards from every set ever printed (although there is an extensive banned and restricted list). [More details.](#)
 - e. **Block***: In Block Constructed, players are limited to a certain "block" of sets from which they can take cards to build their deck. A "block" is generally three sets which were released one after the other, and are linked thematically. The most recent complete block of sets was *Scars of Mirrodin*, *Mirrodin Besieged*, and *New Phyrexia*. [More details.](#)
 - f. **Modern***: This format uses every Core Set from *8th Edition* forward, and every expansion set from *Mirrodin* forward. There is a banned list. NOTE: This format is not currently allowed in sanctioned events, but once it is I plan to run the occasional Modern event. [More details.](#)
2. A **Limited** event is one in which the players purchase product from the store from which they build their decks for the event. There are two major formats under this category:
 - a. **Sealed Deck**: In this format, players receive 6 booster packs of product, and build a deck of at least 40 cards with additional basic lands (usually provided by the event organization). [More details.](#)
 - b. **Booster Draft**: Each player receives 3 booster packs of product. Players open one pack at a time, selecting ("drafting") a single card from the pack, then passing the rest of the pack to the player on their left or right (alternating each pack). The players then build a deck of at least 40 cards with additional basic lands (usually provided by the event organization). [More details.](#)

Another variation on pretty much any of the above formats allows you to play with a partner, adjusting your life total as a team. This is called **Two-Headed Giant**. [More details.](#)

Another format which is extremely popular, but cannot be used in a sanctioned WPN event, is called **Commander** (formerly known as **Elder Dragon Highlander**, or **EDH** for short, and still called that by many). In this constructed format, players make a deck of 100 cards, including one Legendary card (the "Commander", or "General" as it used to be called). Besides basic lands, there can be only one copy of any given card in the deck. There is far more detail involved, and [this official site](#) does a very good job of giving you those.

There are MANY other formats. **Pauper**, **Planechase**, **Archenemy**, **Cube**, various draft formats.....but we are unlikely to run events involving these, as they are not sanctionable formats.