

AGA Procedures for Selecting Representatives for International Tournaments

The AGA has adopted a policy for the selection of representatives invited by foreign go associations or sponsors to compete in international tournaments. The policy calls for an open, fair and inclusive process for selecting players to compete in such events. These procedures are intended to implement, support and complement the policy. They are to be used when the tournament host or sponsor is paying for the players' travel expenses or accommodations. Where the AGA decides to send one or more players to an event and the hosts or sponsors **do not** pay for travel expenses or accommodations, then the AGA may choose to send players without using the competitive procedures.

General Principles:

These procedures apply to invitations to the AGA to send American professionals and strong players to international tournaments. They are not intended to inhibit less formal international exchanges. These procedures also do not replace other AGA-approved selection procedures (either currently established procedures, such as for the Oza, or those established by the AGA in the future).

Eligibility Requirements for AGA players:

1. U.S. citizenship or permanent ("Green Card") status; and
2. U.S physical residency at least six months of the year, per AGA policy; and
3. Full or youth AGA membership for all candidates, for the entire year prior to the qualifier event or series of events in the US that serve as the selection procedure for the representative; and
4. Compliance with all foreign host or sponsor-specific requirements; and,
5. For amateurs, at least 10 rated games against players rated 6.0 and up, in the prior calendar rating year (this specific requirements takes effect only after 1 December 2008).

Competitive Procedures:

All eligible professionals and amateurs (minimum of 7 Dan) will be asked if they are interested, eligible and available for an international tournament.

The selection of a representative will be by a short knock-out tournament, either one round (two interested players), two rounds (three or four interested players), or three rounds (up to eight interested players). If more than eight interested players are involved, an alternative competitive format will be used.

Unless the invitation is limited to professional players, in two round knock-outs, at least one strong amateur will be included. In three round knock-outs, at least two strong amateurs will be included.

The AGA will use players' official ratings to invite the amateurs, starting with the highest rated players.

No one can attend more than two international tournaments a year as the official U.S. representative of the AGA.

Back-up Procedures (for use only if competitive selection is not feasible)

There are circumstances where a competitive selection process is not viable or necessary, e.g., insufficient time between the receipt of the invitation and the deadline for selection, or a tournament for which only one player in the US is interested, eligible and available.

The selection order for international tournaments will be official AGA ratings.

1. The highest rated eligible player will be offered first choice to represent the U.S.
2. If that person declines, the offer will move to the next highest rated player.
3. If two or more players hold the same rating (within one-tenth of a point), they each will be asked if they are interested. If two or more are interested, then an elimination series will determine the representative.

Adopted and approved by the AGA Board of Directors November 25, 2007