

Tournament Reciprocity Agreement

Between

Canadian Go Association and American Go Association

Introduction:

The CGA and AGA have a long history of co-operation. This document attempts to formalize the mutual tournament eligibility rules so members of both associations know what to expect when participating in events held by the other association. Tournament directors will also know what procedures to follow and where to get the data they need.

The CGA membership list is available at <http://www.go-canada.org>

The AGA ratings database is available at <http://usgo.org/ratings/default.html>

Regular Tournament participation:

The AGA and the CGA will permit members of each other's national association to participate in their own tournaments without requiring membership in their association. There are two categories of tournaments addressed in this agreement: 1) stand alone tournaments hosted by local chapters that do not lead to overseas competition; and 2) qualifier tournaments that do lead to overseas competition. The procedures for each are basically the same for the TDs, but eligibility rules are different.

Stand-alone Tournaments:

Advance Registration

For advance registrants, event registrars should check the respective web sites to validate CGA/AGA membership status. Note the AGA ratings database is usually very current and shows each member's expiry date. The CGA membership list posted on the website is updated approximately monthly.

If the event registrar is unable to find the player in the database, or the membership status is unclear or expired, the registrar should advise the player to renew or clarify their membership and provide proof to the TD. This can be several ways including membership cards, email confirmation at membership@usgo.org or membership@go-canada.org, or a message directly from the responsible membership official of the applicable association. The player is responsible for this action before the event. If the player is not currently a member of either national association, the player should be asked to join one of them before the event starts. The CGA is willing to accept that if a player completed his/her registration online, the CGA will subsequently receive the membership fees. For AGA events, membership and payment must be validated before the event begins.

Registration on Site

For on-site registration, TDs should use the most currently available website databases to determine membership. The burden is on the player to secure membership in a timely fashion and provide a valid membership number in the respective national association. Players should bring printed proof of

membership, and for the AGA, the website page of the AGA ratings database showing current membership is acceptable. If the TD does not have access to the internet or a membership list, he/she has the discretion to decide to accept the players' verbal statement on whether they are a CGA/AGA member. If no internet access is available for on site memberships, TDs may also allow one day memberships for the sole purpose of playing in the event, i.e., players pay an extra fee to the hosting association for playing in that event, with no other membership benefits.

Players whose association membership is not confirmed will be unable to have their *ratings published by the AGA* until confirmation is received.

AGA and Canadian TDs are encouraged to have players join his/her national association on site via internet if conveniently available at the venue and it does not interrupt the registration process of the event.

North American Qualifying Tournaments for International Events

- 1) For dual citizens for a given calendar year, in relation to competing for the opportunity to play in international tournaments, each person must choose whether to compete for a Canadian or a US seat – one person cannot compete for both in the same year. For instance, a player cannot compete in the North American ING Masters event for one of the US seats, and in the North American Pair Go event for a Canadian seat. Also, if they choose to compete for the WAGC in the US Open, they may not compete for the Canadian WAGC seat in the same year. The declaration of citizenship for the first qualifying tournament in which a person with dual citizenship plays each year shall determine eligibility for the remainder of that year.
- 2) At every qualifier tournament where players are competing for international seats, the TDs should ask the players before the tournament starts to declare whether they are competing as a Canadian or American. All players are responsible for making this declaration clear even if the TD does not ask for it. A dual citizen may still participate in a tournament despite not being eligible for the international representative seat. Note that these requirements may be less strict than those of the sponsoring international body, and players must of course comply with the sponsoring organizations requirements.
- 3) For events selecting North American representatives to an international event, all participants must have their membership status up to date before the tournament starts and no onsite membership registration is permitted. TDs are expected for such major tournaments to have access to membership and ratings databases to confirm CGA/AGA membership status. The AGA requires full membership for one calendar year before the qualifier event starts to represent the USA in overseas events. The CGA does not have a similar requirement at this time.

Agreed to by both associations and put into effect as of June 1, 2008.