

AGA Tournament Procedures for Selecting Representatives to International Tournaments

The document outlines the procedures by which the American Go Association (AGA) selects representatives to compete in international tournaments. The procedures outlined herein ensure that selection is compatible with the AGA policy of an inclusive, fair and transparent process.

Players who are selected as representatives to international events should bear in mind that they represent both their country and the AGA and should therefore behave in a suitable manner.

Application

These procedures apply to invitations to the AGA (in its capacity as a national go association or as a representative of a larger region) to send representatives to international tournaments for which the tournament host, sponsor or the AGA is paying for the players' travel expenses or accommodations ("the international tournament"). These procedures do not apply to less formal international exchanges and do not replace other AGA-approved selection procedures that are currently established (e.g., the North American Oza) or those implemented by the AGA in the future.

Definition

A professional go player is defined as one accredited as such by the generally recognized professional go organizations of the world: the Nihon Ki-in (Japan), the Kansai Ki-in (Japan), the Hankuk Kiwon (Korea), the Chinese Weiqi Association (China) and the Taiwan Wei'chi Association (Taiwan).

Eligibility

Players seeking selection by virtue of US citizenship or residency must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the "AGA Statement of Eligibility for International Representatives". All other players (e.g., Canadians participating in a North American selection process) are designated "foreign players" and must meet all requirements set by the sponsors of the foreign event. Foreign players may also be subject to other agreements between the AGA and their national go associations.

Primary Selection Procedure

In keeping with the goals of an inclusive, fair and transparent process and of generally promoting go whenever possible, the AGA uses a competitive selection tournament to decide representatives to international tournaments.

1. The selection tournament must be open to professional go players and amateurs who have AGA ratings greater than 7.0. All players must be interested, eligible and available to compete in the international tournament should they win the selection tournament. The minimum entry rating for amateurs may be lowered to encourage greater participation.
2. Foreign players must have AGA ratings as set out in point 1 or else be certified to have substantially equivalent playing strength by the president of their national go association or the President of the AGA.
3. Players having ratings below the stated minimum may be invited to participate in order to make the tournament field an appropriate size (e.g., to obtain an eight-player field for an elimination match). Such invitations will be issued to the highest rated players who are otherwise eligible, interested and available to compete in the international tournament.

4. If the AGA is invited to send a single representative and the tournament field consists of sixteen or fewer players, the tournament may be run in any of several formats: elimination (knockout), round robin or Swiss. Players are seeded by current AGA rating where necessary. An alternate format may be used for larger tournaments.
5. If the AGA is invited to send more than one representative, the selection tournament may be run as either parallel elimination tournaments or using a Swiss format. In either case, players are seeded by current AGA rating.
6. Ties that occur in Swiss tournaments should be settled by a playoff match. If this is not possible due to time constraints, ties will be broken first by the SOS then SDOS systems, then by the result of the game between the tied players (if any). Ties still unbroken will be decided by player entry rating.
7. Unless the invitation to the international tournament is limited to professional players, at least one-quarter of the tournament field must consist of amateur go players. Invitations as described in point 3 may be issued to ensure that the appropriate number of players are present.

Secondary Selection Procedure

In the event that a competitive selection process is not viable or necessary (e.g., due to time constraints or a tournament for which only one player in the US is interested, eligible and available), the primary selection process may be waived. In such cases, the representative is selected as follows:

1. Starting from the top of the AGA rating list, the highest rated interested, eligible and available 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), each will be asked if they are interested. If two or more players are interested, then an elimination series will determine the representative.

If the AGA is administering the selection of a representative for a larger geographical region (e.g., North America) and cannot organize a tournament as described in the Primary Selection Procedure, each country in the region will select a single player to compete in an elimination tournament to determine the region's representative to the international tournament. The AGA shall select its competitor in this process according to the Secondary Selection Procedure above.

Policy Status

The AGA's Board of Directors has approved this document as being compatible with the AGA's policy of an inclusive, fair and transparent process, but these procedures do not carry the force of AGA policy. Any disagreement between this document and approved AGA policies is resolved in favor of said policies.