

THE AMERICAN GO ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE 2005 U.S. MASTERS TOURNAMENT

The AGA is planning an annual tournament for American Professionals and the strongest non-professional players. Participation is by invitation, rating and eligibility. This year, there will be a total of eight seats in the tournament and these will be filled first by eligible American Professionals. If less than eight eligible American Professionals accept the invitation to the tournament, then seats will be made available to the strongest eligible non-professional American players.

ELIGIBILITY

For any player to participate as an American Professional in this tournament, the player must meet the following criteria by May 1, 2005:

- a. Be a certified professional from a recognized national Go Association,
- b. Hold membership in the AGA,
- c. Be a US citizen or a permanent resident, and
- d. Have physically resided in the United States for at least seven of the last twelve calendar months.

For any player to participate as a non-professional in this tournament, the player must meet the following criteria by May 1, 2005:

- a. Hold full AGA membership,
- b. Be a US citizen or a permanent resident,
- c. Have been physically resident in the United States for at seven of the last twelve calendar months, and
- d. Played at least ten AGA-rated games since May 1, 2004 against other AGA-rated players who each held an AGA rating of at least 6 Dan at the time of each game.

The AGA may ask players to present proof of any or all of the above criteria before the player begins to play in the 2005 U.S. Masters Tournament and players shall cooperate with such requests in a timely manner.

Based on officially reported results from May 1, 2004 to May 1, 2005, the AGA Ratings Coordinator will determine ratings and tournament

participation for all players. In the event any of the top-rated, eligible non-professional players decline or are unable to play in the tournament for any reason, the AGA will nominate the next eligible player, then the next, and so on, until the available seats are filled.

SCHEDULE

The U.S. Masters Tournament will be a round-robin event with all players playing every other player once. The first round will be held no earlier than May 14, 2005 and the last round will be held no later than July 30, 2005. The Tournament Coordinator is Jeff Shavel and the Tournament Director is Jon Boley. Games may be played in person if feasible or on the internet. The Tournament Director will set up the schedule of pairings and game times and these will be published on the AGA website in advance as much as possible. Results will be published on the AGA web site after each round.

The final round will be between the top two players based on the results of round robin portion, and will be a three game series played in person at the 2005 U.S. Go Congress in Tacoma, Washington. The schedule at the Congress will be determined by the Congress Tournament Director.

RULES

All games will be played under the Ing rules. In the pre-final rounds, players will have 120 minutes each, with *byo-yomi*. In the final round at the U.S. Go Congress players will have 150 minutes each, with *byo-yomi*. Further details will be provided by the Tournament Director.

FEES

All professionals who participate will receive game fees. The AGA will pay the Congress registration fee plus accommodation expenses for the two finalists.

PRIZES

The top three players will receive cash prizes.

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