

## **Procedure for the Selection of the AGA's Representative to the World Amateur Go Championship**

### **Preamble**

The World Amateur Go Championship (WAGC) is organized under the auspices of the International Go Federation. Held annually since 1979, the WAGC brings together top amateur players from all over the world for a week-long Swiss-style tournament. Players representing over 60 countries now compete in the event. American players have competed every year, placing in the top ten several times.

The selection process in the United States requires regular participation in the US Open, and promotes recognition of consistent performance and participation.

### **Selection Criteria**

To be eligible for selection as WAGC representative players must

1. be a US citizen
2. have been a US resident for at least six of the past twelve months
3. have held continuous full or youth membership in the AGA for the past twelve months. Full membership includes full, life, sustaining or sponsor classes.
4. have completed ten AGA rated games in the prior calendar rating year.
5. not be selected to represent the USA at the Korean Prime Minister's Cup tournaments immediately preceding or following the WAGC
6. be willing and able to represent the USA at the WAGC

Criteria 2-4 reflect the current (as of 2009-05-29) AGA policy on the selection of international representatives. This policy may change from time to time at the discretion of the AGA Board of Directors. In such cases, the criteria will be altered automatically to reflect these changes.

### **Selection Process**

The selection of the WAGC representative uses a points-based system, in which WAGC Qualifying Points are awarded to US citizens based on their final standings in the US Open, a six-round Swiss-McMahon event played each year at the US Go Congress. The available eligible player with the highest 5-year cumulative WAGC Qualifying Point total is selected each year as the US representative to the WAGC.

WAGC Qualifying Points are awarded at the US Open as follows:

Final Standing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Points	25	20	15	10	10	5	5	5

Points are awarded for the relative standing of US citizens who are amateur go players. The top US citizen receives 25 points regardless of their final standing in the tournament. Ties within the tournament are broken using the SOS followed by the SDOS systems. Points are split evenly between

players who remain tied. In order to receive point awards, players must be current full AGA members (again including full, youth, life, sponsor and sustaining classes), but need not satisfy criterion 3 above.

Points expire in one of three ways:

1. Five years after being awarded.
2. The chosen US representative to the WAGC loses all accumulated points and must start anew the following year.
3. There is a lapse in AGA membership of more than three months.

The eligible player with the highest cumulative total of unexpired WAGC Qualifying Points is selected each year as the AGA's representative to the WAGC. Selection is made each year on January 1.

### **Implementation notes**

In Sept. 2008, the AGA Board issued a clarification on the expiration of WAGC Qualifying Points due to a lapse in AGA membership. Transition to the clarified policy will be implemented by:

1. updating the AGA's WAGC tournament webpage (<http://www.usgo.org/tournaments/WAGC/>)
2. issuing email warnings to all players holding unexpired WAGC Qualifying Points of the policy change for whom the AGA has contact information
3. placing a notice the E-Journal

To assist players whose AGA memberships are currently lapsed, a grace period ending December 1, 2008 will be allowed. Players renewing full AGA memberships before this time will not be penalized.