



POKER

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

CURRENT – 22 OCTOBER 2023

LIVE TOURNAMENTS



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1. Tournament details

- 1.1 Entry fees will be as per the advertised schedules for series.
- 1.2 Re-entries, re-buys and/or add-ons, if applicable, will be allowed as per the standard conditions in the advertised series schedules.
- 1.3 Number of entrants, unless advertised, are unlimited subject only to number of tables, dealers available and floor space in the venue.
- 1.4 Location as per the specified venue in the series schedule.
- 1.5 The advertised scheduled commencement time for the tournaments are approximate and the Tournament Director reserves the right to alter the start time due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances.

2. Conditions of entry – Mixed Games Academy (MGA) events

2.1 Entry into any MGA series and competitions may be made as follows:

(a) Prior to the commencement of the tournament by:

(i) Completing an application which may be available on-line from the MGA website, MGA-app, social media outlet or by personalised email; or

(ii) Entering the competition in person at the venue, by the payment of the tournament entry fee and subsequent re-entries/add-ons (if offered) to an administration staff or representative of MGA.

(iii) By gaining entry by winning a designated satellite seat hosted by an MGA supporting venue or affiliate.

2.2 Entries will be accepted by presenting in person on the day of the tournament, prior to the start of the event, or by the designated time allowed for registration as deemed by MGA.

2.3 MGA management may, prior to the commencement of any tournament, specify eligibility criteria which entrants must satisfy to qualify for entry into that tournament.

2.4 The management of MGA reserves the right to refuse any application for entry into the tournament and the participation of any nominated substitute in any tournament.

2.5 Entries for any of the tournaments scheduled with the MGA series will close within the specified time as advertised in the schedule, or unless sold out earlier. Entries may be accepted after this time at the discretion of MGA and its representatives and/or Tournament Directors, due to any strenuous or abnormal occurrence that may have been detrimental to that player being able to complete such a task by the specified cut off time.

2.6 The entry fee, if any, will be refunded in the event that a tournament does not proceed or where, prior to the commencement of the tournament, it is determined in accordance with clause 2.1 that an entrant is ineligible to enter.

2.7 If an entrant withdraws from the tournament prior to the scheduled tournament date, the entry fee is not refundable, but the entry may be transferred to another person in accordance with clause 2.9.

2.8 The entry fee will not be refunded to an entrant who is disqualified from the tournament and that entrant's tournament chips will be taken out of play. Any player disqualified in a position that would normally have received prizemoney will not have an official recording of tournament placing and will not be eligible for any prizemoney. The prizemoney will then be split (based on MGA's pay out schedule) amongst the remaining live players in the tournament eligible to receive a cash prize for their finishing place in the tournament.

2.9 At the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or MGA management, an entrant in a tournament may nominate a substitute, provided the person nominated as the substitute has not already entered that tournament, and only if that person has not commenced playing in that tournament, by virtue that the players tournament chips have not been in play.

2.10 By registering for MGA events, an entrant's personal information may be used in future advertising and promotions of MGA and its partners. If entrants wish this information not to be used by third parties, they must opt out by notifying MGA, by writing, in advance of the event.

2.11 MGA reserves the right and license to use selected entrants' names, photographs, images, and likenesses for the purpose of promoting and advertising MGA in current and subsequent poker events.

3. *Tournament format*

3.1 The tournament will consist of a varying number of rounds/levels and a final table. The total number of tables required will be determined by the total number of unique entries received for the tournament.

3.2 Tables designated for use during the tournament will be used exclusively for tournament play.

3.3 Prior to the commencement of a tournament, the Tournament Director will ensure that the entrants are informed as to how the tournament will be conducted and provide any specific instructions pertaining to the running of that tournament. Such information may include, but not be limited to:

- (a) The game(s) of poker and order to be played;
- (b) The amount of the starting bank of chips to be allocated to each entrant;
and
- (c) The tournament structure.

3.4 The names of all entrants for a particular tournament will be drawn randomly by the adopted software generated by computer to determine both the entrant's table number and playing position, or, via a manual random process to allocate initial seating in the tournament.

3.5 The number of entrants allocated to any one table will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

3.6 On any table, position 1 is located to the immediate left of the dealer with position numbers ascending in a clockwise order.

3.7 A draw for the dealer button will be held at the beginning of the tournament, and will be the same for all tables. When new tables are opened for new players after the start of play, another draw will be held for that/those tables.

3.8 Seating assignments may be altered to ensure that entrants who are connected by family or association play at different tables or are separated on the final table. The final location of seated entrants can be under advice from the Tournament Director when such conflict occurs.

3.9 Incorrect seating assignment - If a player enters the wrong event and is seated in a tournament that they have not duly entered, once discovered, that player will be removed from that event immediately. The player will not be allowed to enter the tournament, as they will be disqualified from the event. The players tournament chips will be forfeited and taken from the table. No player who has entered the tournament, albeit eliminated or in play, will have any recourse for refund due to the invalid entry being present in the tournament.

4. *Wagers*

4.1 All wagers will be made with tournament chips. Tournament chips in the possession of an entrant at the conclusion of a particular tournament will remain the property of MGA.

4.2 Entrants in the any MGA tournament will each be allocated the same amount of tournament chips and will be advised of the actual amount of chips prior to the commencement of the tournament.

4.3 An entrant's chips must remain on the table in full view of all participants, with their higher denomination chips in front.

4.4 The bank of chips will not be supplemented or removed from the table by an entrant during the tournament.

4.5 Where an entrant is re-seated, he/she must transfer his/her bank of chips so that the chips remain in clear view of the dealer and/or the Tournament Director and the tournament entrants. Failure to do so may result in the chips being forfeited. Chip trays will be provided by MGA for these table transfers.

5. Re-entries, re-buys and add-ons

5.1 MGA poker carnivals may allow the purchase of re-entries, re-buys and add-ons.

5.2 A re-entry is treated as a new, unique entry to the tournament.

5.3 Re-entries must be done so within the allocated times advertised in the registration period of events.

5.4 Add-ons (if allowed) must also be done in the specified time frame as dictated by the tournament types as determined by the schedule of the series.

5.5 For any re-buy tournaments, players must stay at their seat to re-buy. You must not miss a hand in a re-buy format tournament.

5.6 There will be no random seating allocation for re-buy events until such time tables are being broken and/or balanced.

6. Time to act

6.1 Entrants may 'call the clock' on another entrant. Subject to the request being reasonable, the Tournament Director will call "time" and the entrant in question will have 30 seconds to act. (25 seconds plus 5 second countdown).

If an entrant has not acted on their hand by the time the countdown has elapsed, the hand will be dead. All wagers made by that entrant will remain in the pot .

6.2 The Tournament Director may also call "time" on an entrant, if deemed necessary.

6.3 If the Tournament Director determines that an entrant is deliberately being slow to act on more than one occasion in the same tournament, that entrant may be given a maximum of 10 seconds to act for all subsequent hands.

7. Electronic devices

7.1 An entrant who wants to speak on a mobile phone must step away from the table.

7.2 Should an entrant step away from the table during a hand to take a phone call, that hand is dead. Entrants who wish to use a smartphone (or similar device) at the table will be required to use that device in a manner that does not impede or slow play at the table. At the Tournament Director's discretion, all devices will be removed once play enters the prize pay-out phase of the tournament.

7.3 Once one table before the 'money' stage of the tournament is reached, i.e. where the number of entrants remaining equals the number of places being paid, the use of audio headphones, iPods or other similar electronic devices, at the Tournament Directors discretion, will not be permitted. Should the Tournament Director decide to ban electronics at this stage it will be in effect for all players in the tournament.

7.4 When players have the opportunity to appear in any live stream coverage of any MGA event, players are advised that smartphones and electronic devices are not allowed on the stream/feature table while recording is in progress.

8. Elimination

8.1 Entrants in any of the MGA poker tournaments will be eliminated from that tournament when they have lost their bank of tournament chips and no further re-entries, re-buys or add-ons are permitted.

8.2 To maintain balanced tables throughout the duration of the tournament, entrants may be re-seated at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

8.3 Unless deemed otherwise by the Tournament Director, the following procedure will be applied:

(a) A difference of two entrants between tournament tables is acceptable.

During the final stages of a particular tournament a difference of two entrants will be more tightly balanced as soon as is practical.

(b) On any table which is three or more entrants short, creating a difference of three, play may be suspended until that table has been balanced. (In accordance with TDA Recommended Rules and Procedures 11-D)

(c) To balance in flop and mixed games, MGA follow the RR&P's set out by TDA's latest version of procedures (Rule 11-A, B & C)

(d) Entrants must promptly move to the table as requested or risk incurring a penalty.

(e) Where an entrant is re-seated, they will assume all rights and responsibilities of their new position. An entrant moving to a new table is eligible to be dealt a hand in any position, except if they are seated in between the button and the small blind.

8.4 In the event of more than one entrant being eliminated from a tournament during the same hand on the same table and if "in the money", places will be allocated relative to the size of the eliminated entrants' respective tournament chip banks prior to the commencement of that hand.

8.5 In the event of two entrants being eliminated from two separate tables on a corresponding hand, those entrants will be equal in placing regardless of their tournament chip bank at the commencement of that particular hand and any prizemoney will be split evenly.

9. Tournament winners

9.1 The winner for any of the MGA poker tournaments will be the last entrant remaining in that tournament after all other entrants have been eliminated.

10. Prize pool

10.1 MGA and its sponsors may add value to a prize pool in the form of cash, goods or services.

10.2 A Tournament prize pool will consist of all buy-ins, excluding the advertised rake or buy-in fee associated with that event.

10.3 *Cash tournament prize pool* - Entrants will be advised of the actual prize pool break up as soon as practical once the registration period has finished, and the calculation has been confirmed. Note that ‘rounding’ of individual prizes will be at the Tournament Directors discretion (up or down) by up to \$50. MGA will pay-out the total calculated prize pool (after admin costs have been deducted) regardless of prize rounding. The following formula will provide a general idea of distribution.

Payouts	2-5 players %	6-9 players %	10-14 players %	15-24 players %	25-34 players %	35-44 players %	45-54 players %	55-64 players %	65-74 players %	75-84 players %
1 st	100	65	50	40	37	35	32	31	30.5	30
2 nd		35	30	25	25	22	22	21	20.5	19.5
3 rd			20	20	15	15	15	13	12.5	12
4 th				15	12	11	11	10.5	10	9.5
5 th					11	9	8	8	8	8
6 th						8	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
7 th							5.5	5.5	5	5
8 th								4.5	4	4
9 th									3	3
10 th										2.5

Total places paid

Entries	Places paid
2 to 5	1
6 to 9	2
10 to 14	3
15 to 24	4
25 to 34	5
35 to 44	6
45 to 54	7
55 to 64	8
65 to 74	9
75 to 84	10

MGA prize pool distribution is based on 10% of total entries (rounded) plus 2 additional placings.

e.g. # 1 - A tournament with 24 entrants will be calculated as follows:

$$24 * 10\% = 2.4 + 2 = 4.4$$

This will be rounded down to 4 places paid

e.g. # 2 - A tournament with 28 entrants will be calculated as follows:

$$28 * 10\% = 2.8 + 2 = 4.8$$

This will be rounded up to 5 places paid.

10.4 Prize money and deals between players - MGA is prepared to assist with financial deals made between players. MGA does require that an amount of money is left “up top” and payable to the outright winner of the tournament regardless what other money distribution has been agreed to.

The calculation is as follows:

Up to \$50,000 – 10%

Remaining prize pool (unpaid places, not the total for the tournament) up to \$50,000 – 10% rounded down to the nearest \$500 is to be deducted from any deal discussions and reserved for the winner.

\$50,001 - \$100,000 – \$5,000 + 5% over \$50,001

Remaining prize pool (unpaid places, not the total for the tournament) between \$50,001 and \$100,000 – \$5,000 + 5% rounded down to the nearest \$500 is to be deducted from any deal discussions and reserved for the winner. Any deals meeting the above criteria will be recorded and separate payments made to the final finishers for the event.

E.g. Prizepool of \$60,000 remaining will require \$5,000 + \$500 set aside for the eventual winner. (10% up to \$50,000 and 5% extra for the amount over \$50,000)

As a duty of care to all players, MGA will, in its absolute discretion, advise any player that is being offered significantly less than ICM considerations during deal discussions.

If players insist on not following the above approved payout structure method, then MGA will provide pay-outs based on the predetermined pay-out structure and players are to arrange between themselves alternate arrangements. MGA takes no responsibility for players being duped via underpayments when not following the terms of deals for MGA events.

Regardless of any agreement by players to follow MGA preferred pay-out structures, any "place fixing" or similar agreements will result in each of the remaining players receiving equal lowest available points available under POTS competition rules.

If, for instance, there are 3 players remaining who agree to a certain winner, second and third place then all three will receive equal third points in the POTS competition. If 2 remain then equal second place POTS points will be awarded to each player.

Furthermore, if, in the opinion of the tournament director, in his/her absolute discretion they believe the game is being manipulated for a particular result and players have ignored any warnings given then the tournament director will advise players that this rule is in effect.

Poker is an individual game, chip dumping and other forms of collusion will result in disqualification.

The integrity of the game is our priority and efforts to bring this into question will not be tolerated.

11. Conduct of play

11.1 The Tournament Director may penalise any entrant who fails to comply with these terms and conditions or whose behaviour is assessed as being detrimental to the integrity and proper conduct of the tournament, including but not limited to the following examples:

- (a) Abuse of venue employees, the staff and representatives of MGA, either verbally or physically;
- (b) Abuse of other entrants, either verbally or physically;
- (c) An entrant showing his/her card(s) or verbally advising the content of his/her hand to another entrant(s) when that betting round is not complete;
- (d) Exposing hole card(s) with action pending;
- (e) Causing card(s) to go off the table;
- (f) Advising another entrant how to play a hand;
- (g) Soft-play;
- (h) Deliberately miscalling a hand;
- (i) Sitting in the wrong seat;
- (j) Collusion;
- (k) Intentionally avoiding payment of a blind when moving from a broken table.
- (l) Discussion of the particular hand in play prior to action being complete by any entrant on the table whether in the hand or not;
- (m) One entrant to a hand rule – no seeking advice from other competitors or bystanders.
- (n) Acting out of turn;
- (o) Concealing hole cards from other players;
- (p) Concealing chips from other players;
- (q) Being, or assessed by the staff of the venue operator as being, intoxicated;
- (r) Using a mobile device at the table that interferes with the pace of the game, by receiving phone calls whilst in a hand, or with action pending.

(s) Using a mobile device at the table to communicate with another person in any way, that is in the same tournament, that passes on advice throughout play.

11.2 Penalties - At the discretion of the Tournament Director:

(a) exclusion from the table for one or more rounds of play, to be served away from the table (blinds, antes and/or forced bets to be forfeited).

(b) time penalties, to be served away from the table, may also be used (blinds, antes and/or forced bets to be forfeited).

(c) disqualification from the tournament.

11.3 The Tournament Director reserves the right to read any unexposed hands to determine whether collusion has occurred.

11.4 If, at the commencement of the tournament, an entrant does not take his/her allotted seat at the specified time as nominated by the Tournament Director, and is not disqualified, will have all antes, blinds and forced bets deducted from the set amount of their tournament chips for each round of betting until they return. The entrants' position at the table will still be dealt in during the absence. If the player does not take their seat by the time final card has been dealt to the last player in the initial deal for the particular game, then the hand is dead (even if the last of a players chips have been used for blinds/antes/bring-in).

11.5 Any entrant who retires during play may, from the time of retirement, continue to have all antes, blinds and forced bets deducted from the value of their chip stack. The entrant will remain eligible to progress to the next round/session or final table and remain eligible to be awarded any applicable prize in accordance with section 6 – Prize pool.

11.6 Prior to the commencement of a tournament all entrants may view the terms and conditions and must abide by them or risk disqualification.

11.7 The venues that host MGA series reserve the right to ban any means of advertising, including apparel which contains obscene images or words, or are otherwise deemed inappropriate by the venue operator.

11.8 The tournaments will be conducted by the Tournament Director and/or their deputies in accordance with these terms & conditions, and the latest version of TDA Rules and recommended procedures.

11.9 In the event of any inconsistency between these terms and conditions and the rules of poker set out by TDA latest version, MGA house rules will prevail at the Tournament Directors discretion and his/her decision is final.

11.10 In the event of a dispute relating to any of the tournament conditions, the decision of the Tournament Director is final.

11.11 MGA, and representatives of MGA, shall not be liable for any losses whatsoever that may arise from any decision of the Tournament Director.

12. Behavioural standards

12.1 The following list should be used as a guide for player behaviour in MGA poker tournament carnivals.

ENCOURAGED BEHAVIOURS

The following is the manner in which we encourage patrons to play

- Friendly
- Promptly
- Protecting your hand
- Being quiet when a hand is in play (especially if you are not in the pot)
- Announcing intentions clearly with correct terminology
- Playing with integrity
- Observing game play and acting in turn

DISCOURAGED BEHAVIOURS

This is the kind of behaviour is discouraged and may result in escalating penalties or disqualification from MGA events:

- Throwing chips directly into the pot ('splashing the pot')
- Throwing cards or chips in an aggressive manner
- Acting out of turn
- Using a mobile phone that is distracting at the table

- Aggressive and in-appropriate abuse either verbally or psychically to any member of MGA staff, venue employees or other players
- Purposely looking at another players hand
- Engaging in angle shooting behaviours in an effort to gain unfair advantage over another player
- Bending or marking cards

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

This kind of behaviour may result in immediate penalty, disqualification or banning at the Tournament Directors discretion:

- Swearing, yelling, arguing or creating a disturbance
- Chip dumping or collusion
- Abusing any patron or staff member

12.2 The competitive integrity of all MGA tournaments is paramount. All participants must adhere to the spirit and letter of these MGA official tournament rules that forbid play or any action that is illegal, unethical or constitutes cheating or collusion in any form.

- Cheating is defined as any such act engaged in by a participant to break the established rules of play to gain an advantage. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, acts such as: collusion; chip stealing; transferring non-value MGA chips from one event to another; introducing chips not intended for an event into that event; card marking; card substitution; or the use of any kind of cheating device.
- Collusion is defined as any agreement between or among two (2) or more participants to engage in illegal or unethical acts against other participants. Collusion includes, but is not limited to, acts such as: chip dumping; soft play; sharing card information with another participant; sending or receiving signals from or to another participant; the use of

electronic communication with the intent to facilitate collusion; and any other act that MGA deem inappropriate.

- Chip dumping is defined as any agreement between or among two (2) or more participants for one or more of the participants to bet chips with the intent of increasing another participant's stack.
- Soft play is defined as any agreement between or among two (2) or more participants to not bet or raise each other in order to minimize the number of chips lost by those participants participating in the agreement.
- All participants are entitled to expect civility and courtesy from one another at every table and throughout the MGA area. Any individual who encounters behaviour that is not civil or courteous, or is abusive in any way, is encouraged to immediately contact an MGA tournament official. Participants who violate this rule are subject to penalty in accordance with MGA official rules and “penalties”.
- MGA will penalize any act that, in the sole and absolute discretion of tournament officials, is inconsistent with these MGA official tournament rules or the best interests of the MGA tournament.
- Anyone found to have engaged in or attempted to engage in any act that MGA officials believe, in their sole and absolute discretion, compromises, or could compromise, the competitive integrity of MGA will be subject to sanctions imposed. The nature and extent of the sanctions imposed shall be in the sole and absolute discretion of MGA tournament officials and may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 1. Forfeiture of chips
 2. Forfeiture of prize money
 3. Ejection from an event or the entire MGA tournament series
 4. Loss of privilege to participate in future MGA events
 5. Exclusion from entering the venue.

- Any and all violations of this section or any other violations of the MGA official tournament rules, as determined by tournament officials in their sole discretion, may be publicly disclosed in an effort to deter future violations and to assist other poker tournament operators in identifying participants who engage in play or any action that is illegal, unethical, or constitutes cheating or collusion in any form.

13. General

13.1 *Roles and responsibilities* – The Mixed Games Academy (MGA) is a privately owned business and has the moral and ethical viewpoint of promoting the game of poker, with the spirit and intent of the game our primary focus. MGA accepts that an operator must ensure the legal enforcement of the game, its rules, and conditions in accordance with state and Federal laws that it acts under. Every effort is made in attempt to uphold the spirit of the game with attention to fairness for one and all in making decisions pertaining to each individual event, series, and competition. MGA follow the standard rules and recommended procedures as outlined by Tournament Directors Association (TDA) and where the TDA is silent on certain aspects, MGA has adopted in-house rules to deal fairly with certain situations to ensure a consistent approach and randomness of card distribution (See “House rules” section 14).

13.2 *Series and competition status* - MGA reserves the right to change, alter or cancel any of its events, series and/or competitions for any reason, at any time. A player entering an MGA event has accepted, by the form of payment, the terms and conditions as specified in this document and accepts the decisions and directions given by Mixed Games Academy, its staff and Tournament Directors.

13.3 *Player replacement by Proxy* - There may be at times, for reasons outside the players control, reasons to allow a proxy/replacement player to an event. For any player wishing to do so it must be prior to the re-start of the

particular events Day 2/3 etc. Each request will be determined by the Tournament Director based on the reasons provided. Example: An event runs over time and becomes a two-day event as opposed to one day as expected, and, the player has pre-organised flights and travel and cannot attend the re-scheduled event next day. This would be considered grounds for a proxy/replacement player. So long as the proposed player has not already entered the particular event, the Tournament Director may authorise a replacement player. The approval is at the absolute discretion of the Tournament Director and must be made in writing, with evidence supporting the reasons why the original player is unable to continue.

14. House rules

Mixed Games Academy follows the TDA Recommended Rules and Procedures. Where TDA is silent on certain game types, MGA has developed a set of house rules to ensure a consistent and fair approach across all variants. The house rules adopted by MGA prioritise randomness, fairness and a distribution of unseen cards where possible. All rules and procedures adopted by MGA are to ensure the smooth running of tournaments and game play while adhering to an internationally accepted framework and integrating local house rules to cover all situations that may arise at MGA events.

For any situation not covered via MGA house rules or TDA, the Tournament Directors decision will be final and take into account random theory and what is in the best interest of the game.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above matters further then please email td@mixedgamesacademy.au

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