

# Magic: The Gathering Premier Event Invitation Policy

2009 DCI Tournament Season

Updated 7/6/2009

## INTRODUCTION

This document covers the invitation and eligibility criteria for Premier **Magic: The Gathering**® tournaments for the 2009 season and the qualifier tournaments that feed them. This document does not cover tournaments that take place during the 2010 season or later. The most recent version of this document can be found at [thedci.com/docs](http://thedci.com/docs).

This document is published in multiple languages. If a discrepancy exists between the English version and a non-English version of this document, tournament participants must refer to the English version to settle disputes concerning this policy.

*Wizards of the Coast reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to change this document at anytime without notice.*

## 1 TOURNAMENT SEASON

Each **Magic**™ tournament season begins the day after the previous World Championship and ends on the final day of the following World Championship. All tournaments included in that time period make up a tournament season.

### Example

The 2009 tournament season begins the day after the 2008 World Championship and ends on the final day of the 2009 World Championship. If a tournament takes place on the same weekend as the 2009 World Championship, it is considered part of the 2009 tournament season.

## 2 TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

Players under DCI™ suspension are not eligible to compete in DCI-sanctioned tournaments or receive ranking-based invitations to tournaments. If a player is suspended when DCI rankings are issued, that player will not be included in that set of rankings and will not receive a ranking-based invitation or bye to any tournaments based on those rankings.

Tournament invitation lists are published at [wizards.com](http://wizards.com). Invitations will not be awarded until complete event results are received and reviewed. If a tournament official incorrectly or improperly issues an invitation for any reason, Wizards of the Coast and the DCI reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to withhold any and all invitations and prizes for an event. Invitations may be rescinded by the DCI upon investigation. Any such decisions are final and non-appealable.

Certain individuals may not be eligible to compete in DCI-sanctioned tournaments because of their employment status. Check the DCI Universal Tournament Rules for details.

Tournaments are classified as open or invitation-only. Any player may compete in an open tournament as long as he or she satisfies the appropriate geographical, age, or amateur-status requirements and any other restrictions as listed under the description for that open tournament.

### **3 RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY**

Many tournaments described in this document, such as National and/or Regional Championship, have residential restrictions that determine who is allowed to participate in those tournaments.

In order to play in a specific country's Regional and/or National Championship (including which country's or geo-region's ratings toward which National Championship or World Championship invitations are determined for each player) during the 2009 season, a player must be either:

- a citizen of that country, or
- have been a resident of that country since January 1, 2009

A player's current country of residence for the purpose of eligibility to play in a specific country's Regional and/or National Championship (including which country's or geo-region's ratings toward which National Championship or World Championship invitations are determined for each player) is determined on January 1, 2009. That country is the same as the country listed in a player's address in the DCI database.

If a player wishes to change their country of eligibility for Regional, and/or National Championship (including which country's or geo-region's ratings toward which National Championship or World Championship invitations are determined for each player), that player must follow the instruction in the Appeals Section (Section 11) of this document.

Possible reasons for changing a player's eligible country might be:

- A player is a citizen of two different countries and wishes to change his eligibility from the country listed in his address to the other eligible country
- A player has changed addresses prior to January 1, 2009 and failed to update his address with the DCI prior to January 1, 2009.

Players may only participate in one country's Regional and/or National Championship in a season.

If players have any questions regarding the above policy, please contact the DCI Program Manager at [scott.larabee@wizards.com](mailto:scott.larabee@wizards.com)

### **4 PRIZE ELIGIBILITY**

Premier Events and/or Pro Players Club Membership may offer prizes in the form of prize money or travel awards, each subject to the terms of this policy and any other policy or agreement as determined by Wizards.

If a player is awarded a travel award and the player subsequently is under DCI suspension before and during the tournament to which the player has been awarded the travel award, such player (1) is not eligible to compete in the tournament and (2) forfeits his or her travel award

A DCI Member is eligible for these prizes if he or she either:

- Has played in a particular event and has placed in the final standings where such a prize would be awarded according to the DCI tournament floor rules; or

- Is of sufficient level in the Pro Players Club to receive such a prize

Prize money or travel awards won at the following events are issued by the U.S. offices of Wizards of the Coast LLC:

- Pro Tour and World Championship main events
- Grand Prix main events in North America, Latin America, and Japan
- Nationals main events in North America, Latin America, and Japan
- Pro Tour Qualifiers in North America, Latin America, and Japan

*Note: Prize money at these events is issued in U.S. Dollars.*

All prize money and travel awards based on membership in the Pro Players Club are issued by the U.S. offices of Wizards of the Coast LLC. Prize money is issued in U.S. dollars.

Prize money or travel awards for events in the Europe or Asia Pacific regions (excluding Japan) are issued by the local Wizards of the Coast office. For information about prize awards in these regions, please contact the local Wizards of the Coast office. See *Appendix B* for local office contact information.

A DCI member eligible for a prize money award must claim his or her prize money award within 1 year from the date of the event in which he or she won the prize or the prize award is forfeited.

A DCI member eligible for a travel award must arrange that travel with Wizards of the Coast LLC or its designate at least 30 days prior to first day of the event for which he or she won such travel award. Any travel arrangements not made prior to this date will be forfeited.

Information on how to collect your prize award or travel award based on Pro Players Club membership can be found at

<http://www.wizards.com/Magic/Magazine/Article.aspx?x=protour/playersclub/guidelines>

Information on how to collect your travel award from a Pro Tour Qualifier in North America, Latin America, or Japan can be found at

<http://www.wizards.com/Magic/Magazine/Article.aspx?x=protour/default/travelawardletter>

All other countries handle their travel awards differently. Please contact your local Wizards of the Coast office for specific details. Please see the website URLs below.

**EUROPE:** <http://ww2.wizards.com/Company/Info/default.aspx?doc=Europe>

**ASIA PACIFIC (exc. Japan):**

<http://ww2.wizards.com/Company/Info/default.aspx?doc=Asia>

Wizards of the Coast LLC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify any and all prize or award structures, and to substitute any prize or award for another prize or award in its sole discretion.

All travel awards are subject to the following additional terms and conditions:

- All awards are non-transferable, non-negotiable, and not redeemable for an alternative award except in Wizards' sole discretion.

- A player may only be awarded one travel prize per Pro Tour. If a player already possesses a travel prize to a Pro Tour, all further travel prizes won for that Pro Tour are forfeit.
- All taxes are the responsibility of the individual receiving the prize or award.
- Before being awarded any travel prize, the Pro Tour Qualifier winner must, among other things, submit to Wizards of the Coast LLC: (i) a signed Consent and Release Agreement, (ii) the appropriate IRS tax form, (iii) provide proof of identification, and (iv) any other documentation designated by Wizards.
- An airfare award shall consist of one (1) roundtrip coach air ticket, on an airline chosen by Wizards or its designate, from the major airport nearest the recipient's home to the city in which the applicable tournament or championship will be held, during the time of such tournament or championship.
- The travel award winner agrees to adhere to all instructions provided by Wizards to assist Wizards or its designate in booking such air ticket.
- Wizards or its designate will only book such ticket to include the days of the applicable tournament or championship.
- Lodging, meals, gratuities, ground transportation, fees caused by changes to airline reservations, and any other fees, costs or expenses are the winner's sole responsibility.
- Travel must be taken on dates designated by Wizards or the award will be forfeited.
- Individuals may not change airline ticket dates without Wizards' prior written approval.
- Specific travel dates and arrangements are subject to availability.
- Minors (i.e. those under 18 years of age) who win a Pro Tour Qualifier are not eligible to be awarded the plane ticket travel award. Instead, minors will be awarded a "Cash Equivalent Award" equal to the cost of a round trip ticket to the Pro Tour in question, as determined by Wizards in its sole discretion. This award will be issued only if the player actually shows up to the Pro Tour in question on his or her own, and registers to play in the tournament. Wizards will pay out this "Minor Qualifier Travel – Cash Equivalent Award" after the Pro Tour along with the rest of the Pro Tour payouts.

For additional information about travel awards, please go to <http://www.wizards.com/Magic/Magazine/Article.aspx?x=protour/default/travelawardletter>

## 5 RANKINGS-BASED INVITATIONS

Some tournaments offer invitations based on DCI rankings. Those invitations are based on DCI rankings calculated six weeks before the tournament (exception: National Championships). The rankings used are the rankings that are published the most recent Wednesday that is at least six weeks prior to the final day of the tournament in question (exception: National Championships).

All invitation-only National Championships will offer ranking-based invitations based on the DCI rankings published on **June 10, 2009**, regardless of the date of each individual National Championship.

### Examples

- 2009 Pro Tour–Kyoto will be held February 17-March 1, 2009. The closest Wednesday that is at least six weeks previous to the last day of this event is January 14, 2009. The DCI rankings published on that date will be used to determine ranking-based invitations to 2009 Pro Tour–Kyoto.
- One country's 2009 National Championships will be held July 4-5, 2009; another country's 2009 National Championships will be held July 25-26, 2009. The DCI ratings

published on June 10, 2009 will be used to determine ranking-based invitations for both of these Championships.

## **6 INVITATION REGULATIONS**

Invitations awarded by means described within this policy are officially awarded only upon verification of tournament results and reports provided by tournament organizers in the files and forms required by Wizards of the Coast LLC.

Invitations described in this policy may not be passed down from one player or team to another except as explicitly described in this policy. Invitations must be used for tournaments to which they apply and may not be deferred to future events. The right to compete in any particular tournament is subject to the requirements stated in this policy, including without limitation that each player meet the eligibility requirements for that tournament and submit a signed competitor waiver. Wizards of the Coast reserves the right to award, restrict, or rescind any and all invitations at any time at its sole discretion.

## **7 PRO POINTS**

Pro points are awarded to players based on their finishes at Pro Tour, Grand Prix, Closed National Championship, and World Championship events. Pro points are used to determine the Player of the Year Standing (see section 8 – Player of the Year Standing).

Pro points are officially awarded on the final day of appropriate tournaments after the final standings have been determined, but before invitations are passed down, when applicable. Only players who actually compete in the appropriate tournaments will receive pro points for those tournaments.

Pro points are awarded based on the following chart. For 3-person team or two-headed giant-format tournaments, each team member receives the amount of pro points listed.

**Grand Prix**

Place	Individual	Two-headed Giant
1	10	8
2	8	6
3-4	6	5
5-8	5	4
9-12	4	3
13-16	3	2
17-32	2	1
33-64	1	—

**National Championship - Closed**

Place	Points
1	10
2	8
3-4	6
5-8	4
9-12	2
13-16	1

**Pro Tour - Individual**

Place	Points
1	25
2	20
3-4	16
5-8	12
9-16	8
17-24	7
25-32	6
33-64	5
65-100	4
101-200	3
201+	2

**Pro Tour – Two-headed Giant**

Place	Points
1	20
2	16
3-4	12
5-8	8
9-15	7
16-25	6
26-40	5
41-60	4
61-100	3
101+	2

**World Championships - Individual**

Place	Points
1	25
2	20
3-4	16
5-8	12
9-16	8
17-24	7
25-32	6
33-64	5
65-100	4
101-200	3
201+	2

**World Championships - Team**

Place	Points
1	6
2	5
3-4	4
5-8	3
9-12	2
13-16	1

**8 PLAYER OF THE YEAR STANDING**

Following each Grand Prix, Pro Tour, Closed National Championship and World Championship event, players are ranked according to pro points accumulated from all Grand Prix, Closed National Championship, and Pro Tour events (up to and including the World Championship) for the beginning of the current season. This ranking is called the *Player of the Year Standing*.

The Player of the Year Standing is used to determine the Pro Tour Player of the Year, Pro Tour Rookie of the Year, and membership level in the Pro Tour Players Club.

Membership level in the Pro Tour Players Club is used to determine invitations or byes for certain events. In such cases, players receive the invitation or bye based on their Pro Tour Players Club level on the first day of the event.

Pro Tour Players Club information can be found at  
<http://www.wizards.com/Magic/Magazine/Article.aspx?x=protour/playersclub/guidelines>

## **9 PRO TOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

The player with the most pro points over the course of a season is identified as the Pro Tour Player of the Year. In the event that two players tie, the Pro Tour Player of the Year will be determined by a single-match playoff.

## **10 PRO TOUR ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

The player with the most pro points at the end of a tournament season that has not participated in a Pro Tour or World Championship tournament in any previous season is identified as the Pro Tour Rookie of the Year. In the event that two players tie, the Pro Tour Rookie of the Year will be determined by a single-match playoff.

## **11 APPEALS**

If a player believes an error in his or her match history has caused a tournament invitation or Grand Prix bye to be withheld, he or she may file a formal appeal with the DCI.

### **Ratings-based appeals**

Appeals for invitations or byes based on **ratings** must be received in writing no later than **four weeks** prior to the start date of the tournament in question.

To file a *ratings-based appeal*:

Visit <https://webapp.wizards.com/login.aspx?target=personal>. After logging in, click the “Appeals” link and fill out the form (or email the player coordinator in their region for translation purposes - see *Appendix B* for contact information).

### **Pro Tour Players Club level appeals**

Appeals for invitations or byes based on *Pro Tour Players Club level* must be received in writing no later than **ten days** prior to the start date of the tournament in question.

To file an appeal based on *Pro Tour Players Club level*:

Visit <https://webapp.wizards.com/login.aspx?target=personal>. After logging in, click the “Appeals” link and fill out the form (or email the player coordinator in their region for translation purposes - see *Appendix B* for contact information).

### **Residential Eligibility appeals**

Appeals to change a player’s current country of residence for the purpose of eligibility to play in a specific country’s Regional and/or National Championship (including which country’s ratings toward National Championship or World Championship invitations are determined for each player) must be received in writing no later than **four weeks** prior to the start date of the tournament or the rating date.

To file a *residential eligibility appeal*:

Visit <https://webapp.wizards.com/login.aspx?target=personal>. After logging in, click the “Appeals” link and fill out the form

Appeals may not be based on tournaments that were not correctly submitted to the DCI in time to be included in the applicable ratings run.

Complete information regarding match history appeals can be found at <http://www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dc/appeals>.

Wizards' decisions regarding any appeal are final and cannot be further appealed.

## 12 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The World Championship is the highest-level **Magic: The Gathering** event and occurs at the end of each tournament season. This is an invitation-only tournament.

### Invitation Criteria

Each World Championship invitation list comprises the following:

- The current World Champion.
- The Top 8 finishers from the previous World Championship.
- The 2008 Pro Tour Player of the Year.
- For countries that hold an invitation-only National Championship, the members of each national team, including that team's designated alternate, if any (see "National Team Composition" below).
- For countries that hold an open National Championship, the winner of that National Championship (see "Open Nationals Invitations to the World Championship" below).
- Players with Pro Tour Players Club level 3 or higher. Level 3 players may only attend one Pro Tour and/or World Championship of their choice in a season.
- The Top 25 DCI Composite-ranked players from the APAC region.
- The Top 25 DCI Composite-ranked players from the Japan region.
- The Top 50 DCI Composite-ranked players from the Europe region.
- The Top 50 DCI Composite-ranked players from the Latin America region.
- The Top 50 DCI Composite-ranked players from the North America region.
- The Top 25 DCI Total-ranked players from the APAC region.
- The Top 25 DCI Total-ranked players from the Japan region.
- The Top 50 DCI Total-ranked players from the Europe region.
- The Top 50 DCI Total-ranked players from the Latin America region.
- The Top 50 DCI Total-ranked players from the North America region.
- Participants in the 2009 Magic Online Championship

A list of countries that constitute each region can be found in *Appendix C*.

### National Team Composition

Each country that holds an invitation-only National Championship may field a national team at the World Championship. Members of a country's national team will receive invitations to the World Championship. The default method for determining team members is to award national team membership to the Top three finishers from each country's National Championship, with the fourth-place finisher becoming the designated alternate and receiving an invitation to the World Championship. During the elimination finals of each National Championship, the two non-advancing semifinalists must playoff to determine the third- and fourth-place finishers.

Under special circumstances and in the DCI's sole discretion, an exception to the above default policy may be granted by the DCI. Under this exception, a national team may be

composed of alternative players who finished lower than third place. Players who finish lower than third place are eligible to become part of the national team only if the sponsoring body of the National Championship in question provides written documentation indicating the invitation was offered, in order, to those players finishing ahead of any potential invitee who finished lower than third. This written documentation must include signed statements from players who give up their spots on the national team. The sponsoring body may go as deep in the finishing order as necessary to field a complete national team. All written refusals of invitations must be submitted to the appropriate player coordinator no later than three weeks before the first day of registration for the World Championship (October 29, 2009).

In the event that less than three members of a National Team register at the World Championship, the DCI will form a complete team composed of the people with the three highest finishes at their Nationals who are also qualified for the World Championship (people who didn't play in their country's Nationals count as tied for last in their Nationals with ties broken by pro points). Players designated by the DCI as members of a National team in this manner are eligible for prize awards and pro points from the National Team portion of the World Championship.

**Players who give up their memberships on a national team are not eligible to compete at the World Championship for that year.** The three members of each national team will earn points toward the team competition at the World Championship and are eligible to play as a three-person team during the national team portion of the World Championship. Only the three national team members are eligible for pro points and prize money from the national team portion of the World Championship.

In the event a country wishes to field a national team whose membership is arranged in a method different from the default method outlined above, that country's National Championship sponsoring body must petition the DCI for approval of its intention no later than three weeks before the World Championships (October 29, 2009).

#### **Open Nationals Invitations to the World Championship**

Unlike invitational-only National Championships, open National Championships only award invitations to the winner of the National Championship.

If the winner of an open National Championship chooses not to attend the World Championship, the invitation will **not** pass down to lower-placed finishers

Each country that holds an open National Championships is not eligible to participate in the National Team competition of the World Championship.

### **13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

National Championships are the highest-level events for individual countries. National Championships determine national teams, which are invited to the World Championship. Most National Championships are invitation-only tournaments; a few are open tournaments.

#### **Residential Eligibility**

Each National Championship is open only to those DCI members who are citizens or have been residents of that country since January 1 of the year of the National Championship. Please see section 3 – Residential Eligibility for complete information.

Players may compete in only one National Championship per season. If a player competes in a Regional tournament (such as a Regional Championship, National Qualifier, open tournament, or other tournament offering an invitation to a National Championship) in one country, he or she may not compete in Regional tournaments or National Championships for another country until the following season. Please see section 3 – Residential Eligibility for complete information.

#### **Invitation Criteria (Open National Championships)**

- In those countries that hold an open National Championship, all players that meet the eligibility requirements (listed above) for a National Championship may compete.

#### **Invitation Criteria (Invitation-Only National Championships)**

In countries that hold an invitation-only National Championship, that country's invitation list comprises the following:

- That country's current National Champion.
- Members of that country's current national team, including alternate (those players that played as that country's National Team at the previous year's World Championship).
- The 2008 World Champion (if residing in that country).
- The 2008 Pro Tour Player of the Year (if residing in that country).
- Players (from that country) with Pro Tour Players Club level 2 or higher.
- Winners of invitations through Regional tournaments such as Regional Championships, National Qualifiers, open tournaments, etc.
- That country's Top 20, 35, 75, or 100 DCI Composite-ranked players. The number of players invited in this manner (20, 35, 75, or 100) depends on the size of the **Magic**-playing population in the country (see below) as determined by DCI officials in that country's regional office.
- That country's Top 20, 35, 75, or 100 DCI Total Rating-ranked players. The number of players invited in this manner (20, 35, 75, or 100) depends on the size of the **Magic**-playing population in the country (see below) as determined by DCI officials in that country's regional office.

#### **Ranking-Based Invitations**

- The following countries invite 100 players based on DCI Composite and Total ranking: France, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the United States.
- The following countries invite 75 players based on DCI Composite and Total ranking: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand.
- The following countries invite 35 players based on DCI Composite and Total ranking: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Norway, Peru, Puerto Rico, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and Venezuela.
- The following countries invite 20 players based on DCI Composite and Total ranking: Bolivia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Ireland, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey.
- The following countries will hold Open National Championships in 2009. No rating-based invitations are awarded: Belarus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Iceland, Indonesia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Panama, and Uruguay.

Countries not listed above do not have a DCI-sanctioned National Championship.

#### **14 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

"Regional Tournament" is a general term that describes any tournament that offers invitations to National Championships. They are open tournaments.

The most common types of Regional Tournaments are Regional Championships and National Qualifiers. Other types include open tournaments and Last Chance Qualifier tournaments. See specific eligibility rules for these types below.

##### **Residential Eligibility (applies to all types)**

Players may compete in only one country's system of Regional Tournaments per season. Each country's Regional Tournaments are open only to those DCI members who are citizens or have been residents of that country since January 1 of that year. If a player competes in a Regional Tournament in one country, he or she may not compete in a Regional tournament or National Championship of another country until the following season. Please see section 3 – Residential Eligibility for complete information.

Players who already hold invitations to a National Championship may not compete in a Regional tournament that feed into that National Championship.

##### **Regional Championship Eligibility**

In countries that run Regional Championships, players may only compete in one Regional Championship per season. Some Country's Regional Championships also have regional or other residency restrictions.

##### **National Qualifier Eligibility**

In countries that run National Qualifiers, players may compete in any number of National Qualifiers per season (subject to the General Eligibility Requirements for Regional Tournaments above).

#### **15 PRO TOUR**

The Pro Tour circuit is a series of high-level international **Magic** tournaments. They are invitation-only tournaments.

##### **Invitation Criteria**

Each individual-format Pro Tour invitation list comprises the following:

- The 2008 World Champion.
- The 2008 Pro Tour Player of the Year.
- The Top 50 players from the previous individual-format Pro Tour event.
- The Top 50 players from the World Championship (only for the first individual-format Pro Tour event following the World Championship).
- Players from the 4 top teams (including alternate) from the World Championship (only for the first individual-format Pro Tour event following the World Championship).
- Players on the Top 17 teams from the previous 3-person team-format Pro Tour event (only for the first individual-format Pro Tour event following the 3-person team-format Pro Tour event).
- Players on the Top 25 teams from the previous two-headed giant-format Pro Tour event (only for the first individual-format Pro Tour event following the two-headed giant-format Pro Tour event).

- Players with Pro Tour Players Club level 3 or higher. Level 3 players receive an invitation to attend one Pro Tour and/or World Championship of their choice in a season. Level 3, 4, and 5 players do not receive their invitations to a specific Pro Tour and/or World Championship until the Friday of that Pro Tour and/or World Championship.
- The Top 16 finishers of each Grand Prix tournament that feeds the appropriate Pro Tour event.
- Players who earn invitations through appropriate Qualifier tournaments.
- The Top 100 DCI-ranked players in the format that corresponds to the format of the Pro Tour Qualifiers that feed that Pro Tour event (either Constructed or Limited).
- The Top 100 DCI Total rating–ranked players.

Each two-headed giant-format Pro Tour invitation list comprises the following:

- Any team of two players whose member's Pro Tour Player Club levels equal 8 or greater. Teams formed in this manner must be announced at player registration before the tournament.
- The Top 50 DCI-ranked players in the format that corresponds to the format of the Pro Tour event (either Two-headed Giant - Constructed or Two-headed Giant - Limited). The Top 50 invited players select a team mate of their choice.
- The Top 8 finishing teams of each Grand Prix tournament that feeds the appropriate Pro Tour event.
- Teams (who were previously uninvited) who earn invitations through appropriate Qualifier tournaments.

Each 3-person team-format Pro Tour invitation list comprises the following:

- Any team of three players whose member's Pro Player Club levels equal 10 or greater. Teams formed in this manner must be announced at player registration before the tournament.
- Any team of three players whose member's appropriate DCI Individual Team rating (Constructed or Limited) average is 1750 or higher.
- The Top 8 finishing teams of each Grand Prix tournament that feeds the appropriate Pro Tour event.
- Teams (who were previously uninvited) who earn invitations through appropriate Qualifier tournaments.

### **Renouncing Invitations**

Invitations to individual-format Pro Tour events may not be renounced.

During a Pro Tour Qualifier tournament that grants invitations to a 3-person team or two-headed giant-format Pro Tour event, teams may renounce an invitation they earn from the event. The only time a team invitation may be renounced is at the event where the invitation is earned. Invitations may be renounced any time from the start of the event until five minutes after the end of the final of the tournament. Any one member of the team may renounce the entire team's invitation by signing the appropriate form, which is available from the head judge. If a team rescinds its invitation, the invitation will pass down to the next appropriate team.

A team is considered to already possess an invitation if the players on the team participating at a 3-person team-format Pro Tour Qualifier event have Pro Player Club membership levels totaling 10 or greater, or if the players on the team participating at a 2-headed giant-format

Pro Tour Qualifier event have Pro Player Club membership levels totaling 8 or greater Teams may have also earned invitations through previous Grand Prix or Qualifier tournaments.

## **16 PRO TOUR QUALIFIERS**

Each Pro Tour event is preceded by a series of tournaments known as Qualifier tournaments. Qualifier tournaments offer invitations to a specific Pro Tour event. They are open tournaments.

### **Qualifier Season**

The period over which Qualifier tournaments are held for specific Pro Tour events is known as a Qualifier season. Grand Prix tournaments held during a Qualifier season usually offer invitations to the same Pro Tour event as the Qualifiers held during the same season.

### **Pro Tour Qualifier Eligibility and the Pro Player Club**

Players who already hold invitations to a Pro Tour event may not compete in individual-format Qualifier tournaments that feed into that Pro Tour event. Any team (qualified or not) may play in any 3-person team or two-headed giant-format Qualifier.

Players with a Pro Tour Players Club membership level 4 or 5 do not receive their invitations to a specific Pro Tour until the Friday of that Pro Tour. Players with Pro Tour Players Club membership levels 4 or 5 are allowed to play in Qualifier tournaments that feed into a specific Pro Tour event provided that they have no other invitations for that Pro Tour event (Exception: Players with a Pro Tour Players Club membership level 4 or 5 may not participate in a Last Chance Qualifier for a Pro Tour).

Players with a Pro Tour Players Club membership level 3 receive an invitation to one Pro Tour of their choice during the current season. Players with a Pro Tour Players Club membership level 3 do not receive their invitations to a specific Pro Tour until the Friday of that Pro Tour. Players with Pro Tour Players Club membership levels 3 are allowed to play in Qualifier tournaments that feed into a specific Pro Tour event provided that they have no other invitations for that Pro Tour event.

### **Example**

During the 2009 season, a Pro Tour Players Club member with a membership level 5 wishes to participate in a Pro Tour Qualifier event that feeds Pro Tour-Honolulu. That player finished in the top 16 at a Grand Prix that feeds Pro Tour-Honolulu. That player is not permitted to play in Pro Tour Qualifier events that feed Pro Tour-Honolulu.

Players with a Pro Tour Players Club level 6 or higher are not allowed to participate in individual-format Pro Tour Qualifiers. Exception is made for any qualifier which awards an invitation to a Pro Tour in a subsequent Tournament Season. In this case only players whose current Player of the Year standing is currently less than the level 6 requirement are eligible to participate in a Pro Tour Qualifier.

### **Example**

During the 2009 season, a Level 6 Pro Tour Players Club member does not have enough points in the 2009 Player of the Year Standing to qualify for Pro Tour Players Club level 6 for the 2010 season. That player is eligible to play in a Pro Tour Qualifier for Pro Tour 2010 #1 that takes place in the 2009 Tournament Season (as Pro Tour 2010 #1 is held in the 2010 season.)

## 17 GRAND PRIX

A Grand Prix tournament is a high-level tournament that ranks between a Pro Tour event and a Qualifier tournament. Each Grand Prix tournament offers sixteen (16) invitations to an individual-format Pro Tour event or eight (8) invitations to a 3-person team or two-headed giant-format Pro Tour event. They are open tournaments.

### Grand Prix Byes

Players or teams with high ratings or a specific Pro Tour Players Club level can earn byes for Grand Prix tournaments. Players can earn one-, two-, or three-round byes for individual-format Grand Prix tournaments. Teams can earn one- or two-round byes for 3-person team or two-headed giant-format Grand Prix tournaments. Byes are not cumulative within a given Grand Prix tournament or throughout the tournament season. Byes may not be passed down for any reason and are not transferable. Byes may not be deferred from one Grand Prix tournament to another and must be earned each time. Players who accumulate multiple byes to a Grand Prix tournament receive only the bye for the greatest number of rounds.

If a player (or team) receives a bye, he or she is considered to have earned 3 points for each of those rounds. Byes are not counted toward a player's (or team's) opponent's match win percentage. Players (or Teams) with byes will usually have an advantage in tiebreakers over players (or teams) who do not have byes.

Rating-based byes are based on the DCI ratings issued immediately prior to the first day of the Grand Prix tournament. They are issued based on the DCI Total Rating and the ratings category that corresponds with the format of the Grand Prix tournament. For individual format Grand Prix, this is either Constructed or Limited. For Two-headed Giant events, this is either Two-headed Giant – Limited or Two-headed Giant – Constructed. For 3-person Team events, this is either Team Constructed Trios or Team Limited Trios. Pro Tour Players Club byes are based on the current membership level of the player.

### Grand Prix Byes (Based on DCI Ratings)

	Individual Rating (DCI Total Rating)	Individual (DCI Rating Limited or Constructed)	Two-headed Giant (DCI Rating Average)	3-person Team (DCI Rating Average)
One-round bye	1850	1800	1700	1900
Two-round bye	1950	1900	1750	2000
Three-round bye	2050	2000	n/a	n/a

### Grand Prix Byes (Based on Pro Tour Players Club Level)

	Individual (Players Club Level)	Two-headed Giant (Combined Pro Club Levels)	3-person Team (Combined Pro Club Levels)
One-round bye	Level 1	4	6
Two-round bye	Level 2-3	8	10
Three-round bye	Level 4+	n/a	n/a

## **18 GRAND PRIX TRIALS**

Each Grand Prix tournament may be preceded by a series of tournaments known as Grand Prix Trials. Grand Prix Trials for individual-format Grand Prix tournaments award at least one three-round bye to a specific Grand Prix tournament for one or more of the top-finishing competitors. Trials for 3-person team or two-headed giant-format Grand Prix tournaments award at least one two-round bye. They are open tournaments.

## **19 OTHER TOURNAMENTS**

There are other Premier Level **Magic: The Gathering** tournaments, such as Vintage and Legacy Championships and Prerelease tournaments.

All other Premier Events do not offer invitations to any of the events described in this document.

## **APPENDIX A—CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS VERSION**

### **Changes from March 16, 2009 version:**

- **Section 12 – World Championships:** Updated rating invitation criteria.

## **APPENDIX B—REGIONAL CONTACTS FOR APPEALS**

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**APPENDIX C—COUNTRIES BY REGION****Asia Pacific (APAC)**

Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand

**Europe**

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates

**Latin America**

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Venezuela

**North America**

Canada, United States

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