



# WFTDA Tournament Structure and Seeding Process

*This document describes the WFTDA Playoffs, Championships and Continental Cups structure and the invitation and seeding process. Updated June 2019.*

## Region Structure

1. The WFTDA will assign leagues to continental-based regions in advance of a given competitive year.
  - a. Region size is determined based on the number of teams in a geographic region and the competitive needs of that region. Regions may be entire continents, parts of continents or parts of countries (e.g., Australia/New Zealand, Northern Europe, Northeast United States).
  - b. Regions will be split or combined as needed to best support the needs of the membership and the mission of the WFTDA.
  - c. Should a region not have a Cup planned in a given year, teams will be seeded into the region that is geographically closest to them.
2. Each region will be assigned a number of Continental Cup tournaments that best fits the competitive needs of the region and the viability of operating events in a given year. The date for each region's Continental Cup(s) will depend on the needs of the region, the WFTDA global Playoffs schedule, and the availability of venues.

## Tournament Structure

1. The WFTDA organizes two global Playoffs in September and one global Championship tournament in early November.
  - a. Eligible teams ranked 1-4 per the June 30 global rankings bypass global Playoffs and go directly to Championships.
  - b. Eligible teams ranked 5-28 per the June 30 global rankings are seeded into global Playoffs using competitive S-curve seeding.
  - c. The tournament will be a 12-team bracket.
  - d. The top three winners from each global Playoff move on to compete in a 10-team Championship bracket for the Hydra.
2. WFTDA Continental Cups run in either August or October, depending on the needs of each region.
  - a. The number of Cups and bracket structure of each Cup will be set in advance to best support the needs of the region and will be either a [12-team](#) or an [8-team](#) bracket.
  - b. Each Continental Cup tournament is self-contained, with the winner earning the "Cup" for the tournament.
  - c. On June 30, the next highest-ranked eligible teams who do not make global Playoffs will be seeded into their region's Continental Cup, based on their regional ranking.



## Team Eligibility

1. Game Requirements — Teams must play a minimum of four (4) sanctioned games within the WFTDA Competitive Season. The WFTDA Competitive Season runs from February 1 through June 30 of any given Playoff year.
2. Membership Requirements — Leagues must be WFTDA-member leagues in good standing:
  - a. All financial obligations (membership dues, sanctioning fees, fines, etc.) are paid.
  - b. All membership information and requirements, including Non-Disclosure Agreement signatures, are provided and complete.
  - c. There are no grievances against the league that would prevent the league from participating.
3. Rankings Requirements — Teams must have a WFTDA ranking in the ranges described in the Tournament Structure section above.

## Seeding and Location Assignment Process

### Playoffs

Once eligible teams are seeded into brackets, tournament locations will be assigned in the following manner.

1. The host league is guaranteed to play in the Playoff they are hosting, should they qualify.
  - a. Should multiple hosts be seeded into the same bracket, the lower seed of the two teams will be swapped with the team from the other bracket with their same bracket placement.
    - i. The team who is geographically closest to the tournament location will be given preference to swap unless the geographic makeup of the rest of the teams in the bracket is strongly tied to the tournament in which they were originally placed. In this case, the WFTDA Competitive Play Committee will make the best determination for the placement of the second host team.
2. The geographic concentration of teams in a bracket:
  - a. The Competitive Play Committee will assess if either of the brackets has a concentration of teams high enough to warrant being assigned to a particular tournament location. Specifically, if tournament locations are on different continents, a bracket that has a high concentration of teams on that continent shall be placed on that continent.
    - i. Should a host be placed in a bracket with a high concentration of teams from the other continent, WFTDA Competitive Play may switch that host into the bracket with a higher concentration of teams from the host's own continent. A switch will be made with a team on the host's same seeding level.
  - b. Should there be no noticeable concentration of teams, the brackets will be assigned based on the hosts as the primary deciding factor.
3. If neither hosts, nor regional concentration of teams exists, the brackets will be assigned based on the Committee's best guess on potential ticket sales. The Committee may consult with WFTDA Marketing or other internal committees to help make their determination.



4. The WFTDA Tournaments Manager and Games Officer will review the bracket location assignments to give feedback. The Board of Directors will have final approval on brackets and bracket locations.
5. Game times will be determined based on factors such as team rest time, venue ticket sales and broadcast timing for participating teams and may switch from what is provided in the sample bracket linked above.

## Championships

1. Teams ranked 1-4 on June 30 get a first-round bye and are placed into the appropriate slots on the Championships bracket.
2. Teams finishing 1-3 in each Playoff are seeded into the Championships bracket per their finishing place in their Playoff.
  - a. The Playoff #1 finisher with the highest rank in the post-Playoffs rankings period will be seeded into the game versus the #4 Seed from June 30 rankings. The #2 and #3 finisher from the same Playoff will be placed accordingly.
  - b. The other Playoff #1 finisher will be seeded into the game versus the #3 Seed from June 30 rankings. The #2 and #3 finisher from the same Playoff will be placed accordingly.

## Invitation Process

The timeline for invitations and related deadlines will be determined on an annual basis and will be posted on the WFTDA Forum's Tournaments board by April 1.

1. In early June, teams ranked 1-100 will be sent an email notification of a potential invitation to Playoffs and Continental Cups and may decline their invitation at this time.
2. After June 30 rankings are finalized, qualifying and eligible teams will be invited to Playoffs and Continental Cups. Playoffs-eligible teams must accept an invitation to either of the tournament locations for which they have qualified by the assigned deadline. Once teams accept invitations, they will be assigned to brackets per the Seeding and Location Assignment Process. See the Appeals Process section below for information regarding appeals for a particular location.
3. Invitations for Championships will be sent immediately following each Playoff.
4. Declines
  - a. If a team declines an invitation to any tournament before brackets are publicly released, teams will move up one seed and the next eligible team will be invited to participate. Affected brackets will be reevaluated for locations as needed.
  - b. If a team declines an invitation to any tournament after brackets are publicly released, each team will be moved up one seed to fill the missing seed and the WFTDA Competitive Play Committee will adjust the bracket to play with fewer teams. The team declining their invitation at this time will be subject to the [WFTDA Forfeit Policy](#).
  - c. If a team declines an invitation to Championships, the following process will be followed:



- i. A bye team cancellation will result in the highest-ranked Playoff finisher #1 moving up into the 4th seed bye slot and all other teams being moved up a slot using the most recent rankings. The highest-ranked 4th-place finisher from the two Playoffs will move into the open slot.
- ii. Any other cancellation will result in all teams below the cancelled team being moved up a slot using the most recent rankings. The highest-ranked 4th-place finisher from the two Playoffs will move into the open slot.
- d. If the cancellation occurs after the bracket is released, the team declining their invitation at this time will be subject to the [WFTDA Forfeit Policy](#). If a replacement team cannot be found, the WFTDA Competitive Play committee will adjust the bracket to play with fewer teams.

## Appeals Process

1. Teams may not request specific tournament locations, but may submit an appeal to the WFTDA Competitive Play Committee and WFTDA Board of Directors for consideration of certain circumstances in comparison to other teams potentially assigned to the same location, including:
  - a. Significant financial hardship traveling to the location;
  - b. Significant travel time hardship to the location (extremely long flight times, multiple transfer requirements, etc.);
  - c. Legal considerations (visa requirements, concerns about being able to enter the country/return to one's own country);
  - d. Safety issues (legal, social or political discriminatory practices in the location that make team member(s) feel unsafe, even with the WFTDA safety and inclusion practices in place);
2. Petitions should be sent to [games@wftda.com](mailto:games@wftda.com) and are due no later than **June 21, 2019**.
3. Competitive Play and the Board of Directors will review petitions and will give final approval at the time of final seeding to allow consideration of the impact on other teams and the stability of competitive seeding.
4. Teams will be notified of the decision prior to final acceptance of their tournament invitation.

## Revisions

### May 2019:

Added Appeals Process

### April 2018:

Split Structure and Seeding Procedures into a separate document.  
 Changed the tournament structure to the 2018 structure (global Playoffs and Continental Cups)  
 Removed Class requirement for Playoffs per 2017 Board of Directors seal of approval.  
 Removed location requests and adjusted bracket assignment process.

### June 2017:

Updated number of Playoffs and rankings for eligibility  
 Updated bracket structure for D2 including sample link  
 Updated number of teams from each Playoff eligible for Championships  
 Removed information about D2 brackets at Championships  
 Removed broken link to Competitive Divisions Systems  
 Updated seeds for bracket adjustment due to late tournament withdrawal  
 Updated broken links from wftda.com to wftda.org

