

Hearthstone NSE Winter Championship Official Rules

In order for the tournaments to run fairly and smoothly we have issued the following rule book

Most problems you encounter on the night can be solved by talking to the opposing team's captain and a tournament admin as soon as the problem has arisen. It's always better to contact an admin if you are unsure than to leave it and the problem getting bigger. The earlier an admin can give you a ruling the less likely it is to majorly impact your team.

All students are expected to follow the letter and spirit of the rules while competing. Deliberately breaking or avoiding the rules will result in harsher penalties. That said, mistakes can be made. If you become aware you or your team have unintentionally broken a rule, contact an admin as soon as possible.

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1. Individual Eligibility and Team Rules

1.1. Institution Eligibility

In order for an institution to be eligible to compete in Hearthstone NSE Winter Championship, they must be a recognised provider of Higher Education (HE). Eligible institutions may compete as one institution or may compete as separate 'Playing Entities'. Each playing entity is required to fit into one of the following player models:

- 1.1.1. Main Campus of a BUCS Member playing as 1 entity.
- 1.1.2. Satellite Campus: Plays as a separate entity from the 'Main Campus' or other campuses of the same institution.
- 1.1.3. All eligible students of a BUCS Member playing as 1 entity regardless of geographical spread/campuses, etc. (Similar to 1. Main Campus)

- 1.1.4. Further Education (FE) College offering Higher Education (HE) qualifications provided by another external awarding body.
- 1.1.5. Umbrella Campus/Organisation which is comprised of students from multiple HE awarding bodies.

Full list of playing entities can be found in Appendix A

1.2. Player Eligibility

- 1.2.1. In order for a student to be eligible to compete in Hearthstone NSE Winter Championship they must have met these requirements at during the 2018/19 academic year:

- 1.2.1.1. Be a registered student at an institution of higher education that is currently entitled to participate in Hearthstone NSE Winter Championship.
- 1.2.1.2. Be registered on a credit rated course (e.g MSc ,Degree or HND) that is registered under CATS (Credit accumulation under CATS).
- 1.2.1.3. Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to at least 60 credits per year, or in the case of a postgraduate student be undertaking a study programme of no less than 50% of the full time student programme.

- 1.2.1.3.1. A year will be taken as 12 months from the start date of their course.

- 1.2.1.4. Be aged 18 years or older.

- 1.2.1.4.1. Students studying at HE institutions in Scotland will be eligible to compete from the age of 17.

- 1.2.1.5. All participants are required to have a registered account on www.nse.gg.

- 1.2.1.6. Students must have Battlenet account associated with thier www.nse.gg account.

- 1.2.1.7. Offensive Battletags are not allowed. Whether an account name is considered offensive is at the sole discretion of the NSE Admin Team.

- 1.2.1.8. Battletags may not contain sponsor or organisation names that are considered inappropriate by NSE staff or promote any of the following; gambling website, pornography, alcohol, tobacco or cigarettes or firearms. If unsure please contact a member of the NSE Admin Team.

1.2.2. Ineligible Participants

The following students are ineligible to participate:

- 1.2.2.1. Current members of the NSE Admin Team for Hearthstone. Students who work with NSE in some other capacity e.g. casters or Admin team for non-Hearthstone game may still compete.
- 1.2.2.2. Externally registered students, as determined by the University's Registrar, unless otherwise allowed in accordance with the playing entities being used by the institutions concerned.

1.2.3. Special Cases

- 1.2.3.1. A student satisfactorily finishing his/her course of study after the start of December will be eligible until the end of the academic year provided their institution still classifies them as a registered student .
- 1.2.3.2. A student embarking on a Sandwich Course and/or Year Abroad course is eligible provided the duration of the course is less than one year.
- 1.2.3.3. A student undertaking PhD study on a full time basis will be eligible to compete provided that their institution classifies them as a registered student.
- 1.2.4. Students may not compete for more than one academic institution in any one academic year
- 1.3. Team Rules
 - 1.3.1. Eligibility
 - 1.3.1.1. Each team must have a designated captain who will be the primary point of contact for other teams and NSE staff. Captaincy can be reassigned during the season.
 - 1.3.1.2. Teams must consist of at least 3 students.
 - 1.3.1.3. All students on a team must attend the same academic institution.
 - 1.3.2. Substitutions
 - 1.3.2.1. Teams may play with any players listed on their roster.
 - 1.3.2.2. Students may not play for more than one team in a single tournament night.
 - 1.3.2.3. Each team should be selected as though the other teams would be playing in a match of equal importance at the same time. For example, if the first team does not have a match but the second team does, no players who would normally represent the first team are eligible to play for the second team.
 - 1.3.2.4. Team listed should be updated before the first match of the week.
 - 1.3.3. Offensive team names are not allowed. Whether a team name is considered offensive is to be determined at the sole discretion of the NSE Admin Team.
 - 1.3.4. Team names may not contain sponsor or organisation names that are considered inappropriate by NSE staff or promote any of the following; gambling website, pornography, alcohol, tobacco or cigarettes or firearms. If unsure please contact a member of the NSE Admin Team.
 - 1.3.5. In the event a team splits into multiple teams the majority of the team has the right to any seeding, qualification spots or points earned. If there is no new majority team no team inherits seeding, qualification spots or points earned.
- 1.4. Check in
 - 1.4.1. Throughout tournament there will be check in phases which require teams to check in. When check in is required the deadline will be at 6.30pm on match day.
 - 1.4.2. Teams who do not check in by the deadline will not be entered into that stage's fixtures and will not earn any points for that stage.

2. Match Rules

2.1. Deck Submission

2.1.1. All teams must submit 4 decklists for 4 different classes. All decks must be standard decks

2.1.1.1. If new cards are released during tournament they will be banned until 11.59pm the following day. I.e if cards new cards are released monday evening they will be not allowed until wednesday..

2.1.2. Full Decklists must be submitted by the check in deadline each week of 6:30pm using google form provided.

2.1.3. All decks must be legal in the current standard format.

2.1.4. After tournament begins decklists will be open and viewable by all participants

2.2. Match Format

2.2.1. All games will be played using a bo5 Conquest format with a ban. Which will work as followed:

2.2.1.1. Teams will be both be given deck lists for the other team and will use <http://www.deckselect.eu/> to ban a class which may not be used for the match.

2.2.1.2. Both teams will then que up a deck of their choice for the first game. Deck used by winning team is then retired. This process is then repeated with retired decks not being able to be selected until one team has retired all decks.

2.3. Disconnects

In the event a player disconnects from a game after that game has started that player will forfeit that game

2.4. Team rules

2.4.1. Teams may use any of the accounts registered to play for the first game of the match

2.4.2. Teams may swap accounts after each game. If a team wishes to change account they should make sure the opposing team

2.4.3. Teams may communicate with other team members during game and

3. Spectator Rules

3.1. NSE reserves the right to cast any game played as part the tournaments..

3.1.1. NSE may choose to feature a game. Featured games are subject to the following restrictions:

3.1.1.1. NSE Staff must be given access to pregame lobbies.

3.1.1.2. Players must wait until casters indicate they are ready before starting a game.

3.1.1.3. The following additional restrictions may be put on a featured game. If this is the case, players will be informed by the casters before the game begins.

3.1.1.3.1. It cannot be streamed by any third parties.

3.1.1.3.2. It cannot be streamed by players in game.

- 3.1.2. For non-featured games
 - 3.1.2.1. For non-featured matches students may stream their own games from their own player's perspective without delay.
 - 3.1.2.2. Third parties (anyone not currently playing in game) may stream games with a 10 minute delay
 - 3.1.2.3. Teams may agree to allow a third party stream game without delay.

4. Sportsmanship

- 4.1. Students are expected to uphold the principles of sportsmanship and fair play at all times during a tournament. Students who do not conform to these principles will be penalised. Additionally, it is a captain's responsibility to ensure their team behaves in a sporting manner.
- 4.2. The following are to be considered unfair play and not allowed in any form
 - 4.2.1. Hacking, any modification to game client.
 - 4.2.2. Exploiting, intentional use of ingame bug to gain an advantage.
 - 4.2.3. 'Ringing', i.e. playing using another player's account or using a player not eligible to compete.
 - 4.2.4. Use of any cheat program.
 - 4.2.5. Collusion as defined by cooperation or conspiracy to cheat others. This includes but is not limited to:
 - 4.2.5.1. Soft play, an agreement among players to not play to a reasonable standard of competition in a game.
 - 4.2.5.2. Prearranging to split prizes with other teams.
 - 4.2.5.3. Intentionally losing a game
 - 4.2.6. Illegal pause, use of pause for any reason not specified in Section 2 of this document titled "Match rules".
- 4.3. Harassment of other students is not allowed this includes but is not limited to:
 - 4.3.1. Verbal abuse, this covers any offensive communication in game lobbies or in game .
 - 4.3.2. Any use of racist, sexist, homophobic or other discriminatory language.
 - 4.3.3. Any implied or direct threats to other students.
 - 4.3.4. In game trolling, use of in game features to intentionally reduce the quality of game experience of other students in the game.
- 4.4. Any student or team found to have engaged in or attempted to engage in any act that NSE believes constitutes unfair play or poor sportsmanship, will be subject to penalty. Penalties issued by the NSE Admin team may include but are not limited to:
 - 4.4.1. Formal warning
 - 4.4.2. Forfeit of a single game
 - 4.4.3. Forfeit of full match/series
 - 4.4.4. Temporary suspension of a student
 - 4.4.5. Lifetime ban of a student
 - 4.4.6. Forfeiture of points earned or qualification spots
 - 4.4.7. Forfeiture of prizes
 - 4.4.8. Disqualification of a team from a tournament

- 4.4.9. Disqualification of a team from the NSE Winter Hearthstone Championship
- 4.4.10. Suspension of the team from future tournaments and championships
- 5. Rules for live events
 - 5.1.1. For practical reasons the rules laid out in this rulebook may not apply to live events. For this reason live events may be subject to additional and/or different rules which will be provided to students attending live events. These may include but not limited to:
 - adjusted late and no show penalties
 - additional rules regarding usage of peripherals
 - adjusted rules regarding setting up of game lobbies
 - adjusted rules regarding streaming rights
 - 5.1.2. If a team is unable to attend Live final their spot will be forfeited and 3rd place team will instead take their place
- 6. Prizes
 - 6.1. All prizes will be sent to the captain of the respective team and it is the captain's responsibility to distribute the prizes among their team. In the event the listed captain is unable to fulfill this role, a member of the respective team should contact NSE staff.
 - 6.2. Prizes are to be distributed evenly among the starting lineup of a team. It is at the team's discretion to further distribute a portion of the prizes among the team's substitutes.
- 7. Enforcement of Rules
 - 7.1. In the event a dispute cannot be resolved between teams, contact the NSE Admin Team and provide relevant match media e.g. chat logs/screenshots, where possible.
 - 7.2. All decisions regarding the interpretation and enforcement of these rules is at the sole discretion of the NSE Admin Team, whose decisions are final.
 - 7.3. These rules may be amended, changed or supplemented when required by the NSE Admin Team to ensure fair play and competitive integrity.

Appendix A Playing Entities

Below is a list of currently recognised Playing Entities. If you are a member of an institution that should be recognised please contact NSE staff.

Aberystwyth University
AECC University College
Anglia Ruskin University
Aston University
Bangor University
Bath Spa University
Birmingham City University
Bishop Burton College
Bishop Grosseteste University
Bournemouth University
BPP University Ltd

Bridgwater & Taunton College
Brooksby Melton College
Brunel University
Buckinghamshire New University
Canterbury Christ Church University
Cardiff Metropolitan University
Cardiff University
City of Glasgow College
City of Liverpool College
City, University of London
Coventry University
Cranfield University
De Montfort University
Doncaster College and University Centre
Dundee & Angus College
Durham University
Easton & Otley College
Edge Hill University
Edinburgh College
Edinburgh Napier University
FXU (Falmouth & Exeter Student's Union)
Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow Clyde College
Glasgow Kelvin College
Goldsmiths, University of London
Harper Adams University
Hartpury University Centre
Heriot-Watt University
Imperial College London
Keele University
King's College London
Kingston University
Lancaster University
Leeds Arts University
Leeds Beckett University
Leeds City College
Leeds Trinity University
Liverpool Hope University
Liverpool John Moores University
London Metropolitan University
London School of Economics
London South Bank University
Loughborough University

Manchester Metropolitan University
Middlesex University
New College Lanarkshire
Newcastle University
Newman University
North East Scotland College
Northampton College
Northumbria University
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford University
Plymouth Marjon University
Queen Margaret University
Queen Mary University of London
Queen's University Belfast
Ravensbourne
Reading University
Richmond The American International University in London
Robert Gordon University
Roehampton University
Royal Agricultural University
Royal Holloway, University of London
Royal Veterinary College
School of Oriental and African Studies
Sheffield Hallam University
Solent University
South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
St George's, University of London
St Mary's University
Staffordshire University
Swansea University
Teesside University
Tottenham Hotspur Foundation
UCEN Manchester
UCFB
Ulster University
Universities at Medway
University Campus Barnsley
University College Birmingham
University College London
University for the Creative Arts, Surrey
University of Aberdeen
University of Abertay Dundee

University of Bath
University of Bedfordshire
University of Birmingham
University of Bolton
University of Bradford
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Central Lancashire
University of Chester
University of Chichester
University of Cumbria
University of Derby
University of Dundee
University of East Anglia
University of East London
University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Gloucestershire
University of Greenwich
University of Hertfordshire
University of Huddersfield
University of Hull
University of Kent
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool
University of London
University of Manchester
University of Northampton
University of Nottingham
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
University of Salford
University of Sheffield
University of South Wales
University of Southampton
University of St Andrews
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde

University of Suffolk
University of Sunderland
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of the Arts London
University of the Highlands and Islands
University of the West of England (UWE)
University of the West of Scotland
University of Wales Trinity St David Carmarthen
University of Wales Trinity St David Lampeter
University of Wales Trinity St David Swansea
University of Warwick
University of West London
University of Westminster
University of Winchester
University of Wolverhampton
University of Worcester
University of York
Wakefield College
West College Scotland
West Lothian College
Wrexham Glyndwr University
Writtle University College
York St John University