

Increase Tournament Entries

I wish to make reference to the 2017, December 27 & 2018, April 16 articles in Shuffler.net in which Earl Ball draws attention to the decreasing number of tournament entries.

It is evident there are a lot of shuffleboard players in Florida, most of them residing in parks that have their own shuffleboard facility. These players participate in leagues but seldom in tournaments, and who can blame them when the nearest event is 55+ miles away and they would probably be heading home by 1 pm on the first day.

To counteract the problem of decreasing number of tournament entries, I believe a tournament format is necessary that would fulfill the following conditions: -

- a) Enable all players to be present at the prize giving.
- b) Alleviate the disparity in skill levels.
- c) Provide opportunities for socializing.
- d) Afford AMATEURS the possibility of obtaining advice from PROS who are willing to impart their knowledge.

I herewith submit my proposed tournament format: -

1. Two-Day OPEN PRO-AM Doubles.
2. Increase entry fee to \$8 to allow more prizes to be awarded, especially for the encouragement of lower echelons.
3. Prize money awarded on Day One.
4. HOF Points awarded on Day Two.
5. Start time 9:30 am.
6. Players enroll singly and are divided equally into PROS and AMATEURS, with STATE AMATEURS allocated to either PRO or AMATEUR group in order to equalize numbers.
7. Before the start of every match, PROS draw a numbered tag from the PRO group and the AMATEURS draw a numbered tag from the AMATEUR group. PROS and AMATEURS drawing the same number form a team and play against the numbered team that is shown on a pre-determined chart.
8. Ensure every player plays the same number of matches on Day One.

9. Each player carries a score-card that records a running total of Wins, Ties, Points for and Points against. Score-card must be signed by player and opponents after every match.
10. At end of Day One, total number of Wins, Ties, Points for and Points against are tallied and players ranked in descending order.

11. Special Rules for Day One:

- 11.1. Four matches with 30-minute interval between each match.
- 11.2. A match consists of 16 rounds (8 rounds on each color).
- 11.3. A whistle/bell will start the match which will be limited to 90 minutes, at which time a whistle/bell will preclude a new round from being started. A round in progress may be completed.
- 11.4. 3 discs for speed. No set-up. No charting.
- 11.5. Kitchen = Plus 5 for opponent.
- 11.6. Coaching allowed from Head to Foot only.

12. Special Rules for Day Two.

- 12.1. Players ranked 1-32 on Day One proceed to Day Two.
- 12.2. Players 1-16 compete in the Main event and players 17-32 compete in the Consolation.
- 12.3. Player 1 partners with player 16, 2 with 15, 3-14, 4-13, 5-12, 6-11, 7-10 & 8-9. Teams remain the same for all matches on Day Two.
- 12.4. Similarly, player 17 partners with player 32, 18 with 31, 19-30, 20-29, 21-28, 22-27, 23-26 & 24-25. Teams remain the same for all matches on Day Two.
- 12.5. Current FSA format and rules (best of three 75-point games).
- 12.6. HOF points awarded.

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