

Official Competition Regulations

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1) Preliminaries

The WFD Foundation is a foundation under Dutch law.

The aim of the WFD Foundation is to turn Frisian Draughts into an international sport played by professional and amateur players, at regional and national levels in various countries. A sport played by anyone in the world who loves challenging strategic board games.

The official website of the WFD Foundation is www.frisiandraughts.com.

These Official Competition Regulations apply to all Players and WFD Partners participating in, organising, or otherwise involved in any competition or tournament organised, sanctioned, or entered into the WFD Calendar by the WFD Foundation.

By registering as a WFD Player, participating in a WFD tournament, or organising a tournament as a WFD Partner, the relevant party agrees to be bound by these Official Competition Regulations, and to comply to all provisions set forth herein.

2) Definitions

Player: An individual, character or persona generated by artificial intelligence, who participates in a competition or other form of contest. If a group of individuals wish to participate as a team, then they should be considered as one player.

WFD Player: An individual who has registered as such. Registration is only possible by joining the WFD Team on the Lidraughts website, dependent on approval of the WFD. If a WFD player wins prize money at a competition, €10 will be deducted from it as a membership fee for that year. A player will no longer be considered a WFD player once they have withdrawn from the WFD team on Lidraughts or are banned either by the moderators of Lidraughts or the WFD Foundation.

WFD Partner: An official draughts organisation or a group of individuals who have signed an official agreement to organise Frisian Draughts or FRYSK! competitions, according to the WFD Official Competition Regulations. A group or organisation ceases to be a WFD partner upon its discontinuation, by decision of the group or organisation, or by decision of the WFD Foundation.

WFD Tournament: A tournament organised by the WFD Foundation or a WFD Partner.

WFD Referee: A WFD player who has been appointed by the WFD Foundation to officiate in WFD tournaments, as a referee. The appointment remains valid unless withdrawn by the WFD Foundation board.

Open Tournament: A tournament which is open to all players.

Special Tournament: A tournament in which only certain players can participate, as specified by the organisation.

Online Tournament: A tournament which is held online. All online WFD tournaments will be held on the Lidraughts platform.

Final: A later part of a tournament in which a pre-determined number of top-level players compete in a further set of rounds to determine the winner and the final ranking. It can alternatively be a separate tournament for previous winners or top-level players of a series of tournaments.

Qualifier Tournament: A tournament in which the winner, or several top-level players, receive a ticket to another tournament.

Follow-up Tournament: A tournament in which at least some of the participants are determined by one or more qualifiers.

Championship: A tournament in which the title of 'champion' is awarded, either worldwide or in a specific category. Championships can be either special or open tournaments. In special tournaments, the winner is awarded the title of champion. In open tournaments, the player with the highest score in a certain category wins the title of champion, in that category.

Grandmasters Tournament: A final for the top-level players of an open tournament or a world championship.

Masters Tournament: A final for the players ranked immediately underneath the top-level players in an open tournament, as well as for the top-level players in a special tournament.

World Championship Cycle: A series of tournaments that determine who will participate in the World Championships.

3) FRYSK! World Championship

The WFD Foundation organises the FRYSK! World Championship every year.

4) Frisian Draughts World Championship

The WFD Foundation organises a World Championship every two years, alternating between a full world championship, and a match between the reigning champion and a challenger.

5) The WFD Calendar

Once a year, the board of the WFD Foundation and the various WFD Partners meet to discuss among other things:

- a. Which official WFD tournaments will be held that year, and the years succeeding;
- b. Who will be the organiser of each tournament;
- c. How each WFD tournament fits within the World Championship Cycle.

Aside from this annual decision, the WFD Foundation or any WFD Partner may propose to organise further official WFD tournaments.

For a WFD Partner to organise a WFD tournament, approval from the WFD Foundation board is needed.

Each WFD Partner should organise at least one WFD Tournament annually.

Once an official WFD Tournament has been decided, either by the WFD Foundation board or the organising WFD Partner together with the board, the WFD Foundation enters the tournament into the WFD Calendar.

The WFD Foundation will publish a new WFD calendar, after the annual meeting of the board and partners, as quickly as possible. They will also notify all WFD Partners of any further alterations to said calendar.

6) WFD Tournaments

The organisers of WFD Tournaments must observe the following regulations.

- a. WFD Tournaments must adhere to one of the seven types of competition defined below.
- b. Only WFD players can participate in WFD Tournaments.
- c. Only WFD referees can officiate in WFD Tournaments.
- d. The ranking rules, as defined below, must be applied in WFD Tournaments.

7) Competition types

The WFD Foundation recognises the following seven competition types:

a Swiss Tournament

A Swiss tournament consists of a fixed number of rounds and is played according to the Swiss system, preferably using the Swiss Perfect programme. In the case of an odd number of participants, an additional virtual player is added to the list. Before the rounds begin, players are listed at random.

b Round-robin Tournament

In a round-robin tournament, all opponents are paired together, at least once, according to a pre-arranged scheme for each round.

c Play-off Game or Tournament

A play-off game or tournament is used to determine the ranking of players who have finished in a tie, when a clear result is necessary.

d Match

A match is a competition between two players over a pre-arranged number of rounds, the players alternate colours each round.

e Knockout Tournament

The knockout tournament is divided into consecutive rounds, with each participant playing one or two games per round. Winners of the round advance to the next round. In the event of a tie, a playoff game is played. Opponents are paired together according to a pre-arranged scheme for each round. If there is an odd number of players, one player advances to the next round without playing.

f Online Arena Tournament

In an online arena tournament, players are paired together based on their ranking. The number of rounds, which will count towards the final result, will be decided before the tournament begins. Players cannot earn extra points with consecutive wins.

g Hybrid Tournament

A hybrid tournament is a tournament that consists of a pre-arranged number of preliminary rounds of a Swiss tournament, a round-robin tournament, a knockout tournament or an online arena tournament and a final.

8) The organisation of WFD Tournaments

8.1 Tournament features

The organisers of WFD Tournaments must determine the following details. If the organiser is a WFD Partner, these details should be communicated to the WFD Foundation a minimum of four weeks before the tournament begins. These details should be made public a minimum of two weeks before the tournament begins.

- a The title of the tournament;
- b The date of the tournament;
- c The location of the tournament;
- d The competition type;
- e The way in which the game scores will be recorded, manually or digitally;
- f The number of rounds;
- g The pairing system;
- h The timekeeping;
- i The entry requirements;
- j The entry fee;
- k The awards;
- l The position of the tournament within a World Championship Cycle.

8.2 Tournament Organisation

The organisers of WFD tournaments must make sure the following steps are taken.

a An organising committee consisting of at least two WFD players will be appointed. If the organiser is a WFD Partner, they will inform the WFD Foundation who the committee members are at least four weeks before the tournament begins.

b A WFD referee will be appointed as the referee. If the organiser is a WFD Partner, they will inform the WFD Foundation who the referee is at least four weeks before the tournament begins.

c At least one WFD player will be appointed as the communication officer. If the organiser is a WFD Partner, they will inform the WFD Foundation who the officer is, at least four weeks before the tournament begins. The communication officer will be responsible for announcing the tournament, writing and distributing a press release, publishing the results, ensuring at least one picture of the winner is taken, as well as providing a general impression of the tournament. If needed, these documents will also be sent to the WFD Foundation.

d Both the organising committee and the referee will be present throughout the tournament.

9) Tournament Management

The referee is responsible for managing and supervising the progression of the tournament. The referee can appoint one or more assistants to help during the tournament, or for specific tasks. Players may also be asked to assist the referee with certain tasks, provided they are not playing.

Before the beginning of each round, the referee must ensure that each player is sitting at the correct board, with the correct colour, and that all clocks have been set correctly. If the games are being broadcast online, the referee will ensure that the record settings are correct. The players may only begin their games, once the referee has announced that they may do so.

All games must be played in accordance with the Rules of the Game as used by the WFD Foundation. It is recommended that games are recorded, manually or digitally. If a digital device is used, it must remain next to the board and be used for that purpose only.

Neither players nor members of the public are permitted to use mobile phones or other electronic devices in the playing room.

If there are questions concerning the Rules of the Game, there is a dispute between players or any other irregularities during the game, the clock may be paused either by the referee or the players. The referee will then make a decision and, if necessary, correct any irregularities. After that, the referee will start the clock again.

Once the game has finished, the players will leave the board, leave the pieces in their final positions, and inform the referee of the result.

10) Timekeeping

If possible, the Fischer system of time control shall be used, i.e. a fixed time for each player plus additional time for each move played.

This system is mandatory for online tournaments.

In over-the-board tournaments, analogue clocks can be used if digital clocks are not available. In this case, timekeeping based on the sudden death principle should be used, i.e. a fixed time for each player for either the entire game or a certain number of moves.

11) Recording

In WFD Tournaments, games can be recorded manually, or by using a personal electronic device or one provided by the organising committee for online broadcasting.

If the games are not broadcasted online, players may decide whether they wish to record their games or not.

If the games are broadcasted online, players must record their moves using the electronic device provided by the organising committee.

If the games are being broadcasted online, players should play the move on the board first, then enter the move on the electronic device, and finish by pressing the clock. The move may only be considered complete once the final step has taken place.

In the event that a move cannot be entered on the electronic device, one of the players should stop the clock immediately. The players can then try to identify the issue and if necessary, ask the referee to resolve it. If it appears that the last move played on the board, or one or more of the preceding moves, is irregular, said move will be reversed, and the players will resume the game from the last regular move. Once all irregularities have been resolved, the clock will be restarted.

12) Results and ranking

The following rules must be applied to determine the results and the ranking of a tournament.

a Swiss, Round-robin and Online Arena Tournaments

The winner is the player who has accumulated the most points. In the case of a tie, play-off games will be used to determine the winner, as well as those who receive tickets to a follow-up tournament. In all other cases, the Sonneborn-Berger system is used to determine the final result. Tied players who have not played in a play-off will receive the same amount of prize money on a pro rata basis.

To determine either the winner of a tournament, or those who will be invited for a follow-up tournament, a play-off game will be held for the two tied players. In the case of more than two tied players, a play-off round-robin tournament will be held. This will take place with half the playing time used during the tournament, and with reversed colours. If necessary, this process is repeated until a winner is determined. Each subsequent play-off game or tournament has half the playing time of the previous one, with a minimum of one minute and one second per move for each player (Fischer).

The same procedure is applied to determine which player(s) will qualify for a final, with the difference that the referee can decide the playing time.

b Match

The winner is the player who has accumulated the most points. If the players are tied, play-off games are used to determine the winner. This takes place with half the playing time used during the match and with the colours of the last game reversed. If necessary, this process is repeated until a winner is determined. Each subsequent play-off game has half the playing time of the previous one, with a minimum of one minute and one second per move for each player (Fischer).

c Knockout Tournament

The winner of the final round is the winner of the tournament.

13) Arbitration and Appeal

If a player believes they have been treated unfairly due to a decision made by the referee, the player can make a formal protest immediately, that is either before the next move (if during a game) or before the next game (if after the end of the game). In this latter case, the referee and a member of the organising committee will jointly reconsider the decision. They will then either make a new decision or confirm the original one. This decision is binding for the rest of the tournament.

If a player does not protest immediately, the referee's decision is binding for the rest of the tournament.

If a player believes they have been treated unfairly due to a decision made by the referee and/or a member of the organisation committee, after a formal protest from the player or a formal complaint to the fair play committee, the player may submit a formal written appeal to the WFD Foundation. A formal appeal can only be considered by the WFD Foundation if it has been received within a week of the tournament ending.

A formal appeal should include a summary of the decision, the context in which the decision was made, the reason(s) for the appeal, along with any additional relevant information.

In the event of a formal appeal, within a week, the WFD Foundation will appoint three WFD referees to serve on the appeal committee. Members of the appeal committee will not consist of any of those involved in the original dispute or decision which is being appealed.

The appeal committee will hear from all parties directly concerned within two weeks and will deliver a written verdict in the following week. This verdict is final. The appeal committee should honour the principles of hearing and response, equality of arms, and reply and rejoinder.

14) Fair play

The normal rules and conventions of fair play in mind sports apply to all WFD Tournaments.

For online WFD Tournaments, an additional number of fair play rules apply.

a A player must play using their registered WFD player account on the Lidraughts platform, no other account.

b Help from other individuals, software of any kind, written texts and/or an additional draughts board is not allowed.

The WFD Foundation will appoint several WFD referees as the standing Fair Play Committee. For each online tournament, the Fair Play Committee will select two of its members to serve. Serving committee members are therefore not allowed to take part in the online tournament as a player. At least one of the two serving members should be a representative of the Lidraughts platform.

It is only once the results and ranking of an online tournament have been approved by the two serving members of the fair play committee, that they can be considered final.

A player may file a formal complaint, during or a maximum of one day after a tournament, if they suspect another player of unfair play in any of the aforementioned forms. Such a complaint should at least include a summary of the situation and the reason for the complaint.

In the event of a formal complaint, the fair play committee will hear from all parties involved within a two week period, and will make an official written decision within a further week. The same rules apply to the fair play committee as to the appeal committee.

The Fair Play Committee can decide, among other things, to take one or more of the following measures:

a Exclude or withdraw a player from a tournament;

b Revoke the WFD player status of a player, temporarily or permanently;

c Ban a player from the Lidraughts platform, temporarily or permanently;

d Reduce or revoke a player's prize money.

15) Final provisions

In extenuating circumstances, the WFD Foundation board and the WFD Partners may decide to deviate from the Official Competition Regulations set forth herein. If that is the case, this will require the approval of the WFD Foundation board.

The WFD Foundation board determines the Official WFD Competition Regulations. Any alterations and revisions to the regulations will also be determined by the board, after consulting the WFD Partners during the aforementioned annual meeting.

The WFD Foundation board will inform the WFD Partners of the current Official Competition Regulations, as well as any future alterations and revisions. They will also publish Official Competition Regulations on the WFD Foundation's website.