



## **NCA Tour Structure: Tier Requirements**

**Effective for the 2025–26 NCA Tour Season**

The tournament tiers offer a hierarchy of the events that will be included on the NCA Tour. Tier 1 events are the most prestigious, consisting of experienced organizers and adhering to the highest levels of NCA standards, whereas Tier 2 and Tier 3 events allow for looser requirements and foster connections between the NCA and new and emerging crokinole communities. The tiers and requirements will be reviewed by the Competition Committee on an annual basis with changes being brought to the NCA Board of Directors for a vote.

### **Requirements for all Tiers**

- Tournaments must have at least 16 registered participants.
- An online registration link or registration instructions must be provided to the NCA by six weeks before tournament day. The Board recommends online registration, which can encourage higher turnout. Links to online registration can be posted on the NCA website and used to promote your tournament.
- Tournament registration must be open to all: invitational tournaments are not allowed on the NCA Tour.
- Tournaments must allow the NCA Board of Directors to make an announcement (or make the announcement on the Board's behalf) on the day if the NCA Board of Directors so requests.
- The NCA requires submission of results (to [nationalcrokinole@gmail.com](mailto:nationalcrokinole@gmail.com)) and fees (to [ncacrokinoletreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ncacrokinoletreasurer@gmail.com)) within 14 days of the event.

## Tier 1 Events

Tier 1 events must adhere to the following requirements:<sup>1</sup>

- An NCA Tournament Application Form needs to be submitted and approved by the NCA Competition Committee prior to the commencement of that season's NCA Tour. Depending on timing, this could be 12 months prior to the event.
- The tournament director/organizing committee must have a proven track record of organizing successful crokinole events.
- A cap on registrants cannot be set lower than 40 people, and a venue must be selected that can accommodate such attendance. Guidelines for venue size can be found in the NCA's Tournament Tips and Standards document on the NCA website.
- Tournament registration must be open at least 2 months prior to tournament date.
- The tournament must meet all the criteria<sup>2</sup> listed in Part 4 of the NCA's Tournament Tips and Standards document.
- Doubles tournaments must guarantee no fewer than 10 games (counting round robin and playoff games) for each team, and singles tournaments must guarantee no fewer than 14 games for each participant.
- The tournament must pay the NCA Tier 1 Fee (currently \$75 CAD).
- The previous three tournament editions must average at least 10 players (singles) or 8 players (doubles) per year who finished in the top 30 in that season's NCA standings.<sup>3</sup>

Tier 1 events benefit from the following privileges:

- Calendar priority: no other Tier 1 event will be scheduled within 3 weeks and 500 kilometres of any other (priority of dates between Tier 1 events will be based on the previous year's schedule).
- Most beneficial NCA Tour points treatment (scores will be awarded based on [Tier 1 point structure](#)).

Existing NCA events (ie. those that were on the tour during the 2023-24 season) are eligible for Tier 1 status upon review by the Competition Committee and, if approved, will maintain such status so long as the stated requirements are fulfilled.

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<sup>1</sup> The World Crokinole Championship (singles and doubles) qualifies for Tier 1 status (ie. scores will be awarded based on Tier 1 point structure automatically) so long as conditions remain agreeable between the World Crokinole Championship committee and the NCA Competition Committee and Board of Directors.

<sup>2</sup> Any failure to meet criteria that is brought to the attention of the Competition Committee on or after the day of the event will not invalidate the event results, but rather will be handled between the Competition Committee and tournament director. Serious infractions could lead to tier demotion or exclusion from the Tour in subsequent years, at the discretion of the Competition Committee.

<sup>3</sup> Tournaments that have not been listed on the NCA Tour for the requisite three iterations will only consider the seasons since joining their current tier on the NCA tour when calculating this to determine continued eligibility.

## Tier 2 Events

Tier 2 events are the NCA's second-highest level of competition, comprising high-level events worldwide. Events that have been promoted following a successful Tier 3 edition, are being run by a tournament director/organizing committee with a proven track record of running successful tournaments, or having been demoted from a prior Tier 1 will make up Tier 2. Examples of such events include:

- A previously listed Tier 1 event that fails to submit an NCA Tournament Application prior to the start of the NCA Tour season.
- A previously listed Tier 1 event changing its venue or date to conflict with the 3 weeks or 500 kilometre boundary of another Tier 1 event.
- A previously listed Tier 3 event that ran a successful tournament and is willing to adhere to additional requirements that the NCA lists for Tier 2 events.
- A previously listed Tier 3 event that ran a successful tournament with an experimental format that the NCA is willing to test for consideration for approval.

Tier 2 events must adhere to the following requirements:

- An NCA Tournament Application form must be submitted for approval by the NCA Competition Committee at least 3 months prior to the event.
- The tournament director/organizing committee must have a proven track-record of organizing successful crokinole events.
- A cap on registrants may not be set lower than 30 people.
- Tournament registration must be open at least 2 months prior to tournament date.
- The tournament must meet all the criteria listed in Part 4 of the NCA's Tournament Tips and Standards document, or have approval from the Competition Committee to use a designated test format.
- Doubles tournaments must guarantee no fewer than 10 games (counting round robin and playoff games) for each team, and singles tournaments must guarantee no fewer than 14 games for each participant.
- The tournament must pay the NCA Tier 2 Fee (currently \$50 CAD).

Scores for Tier 2 events will be awarded based on the [Tier 2 point structure](#).

A newly established tournament may be initially listed as Tier 2 if the tournament director/organizing committee has a proven track-record of organizing successful crokinole events. Successful Tier 2 events will be considered for promotion to Tier 1, so long as they can meet the requirements and their inclusion does not hinder an existing Tier 1 event, otherwise they will remain in Tier 2. Less successful Tier 2 events will be considered for demotion to Tier 3. Tournament success is gauged by a combination of participant attendance, player experience and the working relationship with the NCA Competition Committee, among other attributes. The NCA Competition Committee may decide to cap the number of Tier 1 and/or 2 events listed on

the NCA Tour. Tier 2 tournaments seeking to become a Tier 1 tournament in future years should be prepared to provide documentation demonstrating that their tournament fulfills all of the standards and requirements of the highest tier.

### **Tier 3 Events**

Tier 3 status is intended to allow for new tournaments to establish a relationship with the NCA by being included in the Tour without the necessity of meeting all the requirements associated with higher tiers. Tier 3 status may also be granted to events utilizing an experimental format.

Tier 3 events must adhere to the following requirements:

- An NCA Tournament Application form must be submitted for approval by the NCA Competition Committee at least 3 months prior to the event.
- Tournament registration must be open at least 1 month prior to tournament date.
- The tournament must feature a preliminary round of some sort; tournaments consisting solely of elimination brackets are not allowed.
- The tournament format or operations can deviate from those listed in the Part 4 section of the NCA's Tournament Tips and Standards document, but they are still subject to approval by the Competition Committee.
- The tournament must pay the NCA Tier 3 Fee (currently \$25 CAD).

Scores for Tier 3 events will be awarded based on the [Tier 3 point structure](#). Tier 3 tournaments seeking to become a Tier 2 tournament in future years should be prepared to provide documentation about how previous tournament(s) have been run.

Ratified by the NCA Board of Directors April 28th, 2025.