



NCA Tour Structure: Tier Requirements

Effective for the 2026–27 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, having demonstrated the ability to draw the highest levels of competitive players, run by 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.

Events on the NCA Tour are Independently Operated by Tournament Organizers

The NCA supports existing clubs and the formation of new clubs, and promotes a series of independently organized tournaments called the NCA tour.

The NCA establishes a set of criteria of best practices for tournaments to follow, which allow their participants to be eligible to earn points on the NCA Tour. The NCA does not operate or sanction any of the tournaments on the NCA Tour.

Authority and control of operating a crokinole tournament that is listed on the NCA Tour remains exclusively with the Tournament Organizer (TO) or any individual the TO delegates. The TO retains the right to operate their event as they best see fit. Restricting their event to individuals aged 16 and up, or requiring children be accompanied by an adult will not be considered a contravention of the NCA Tour requirement that tournament registration is open for all. The TO's decision to remove or ban any individual from their event due to rules contraventions, or conduct unbecoming (as determined by the TO) will not be considered an infringement of the NCA Tour requirement that tournament registration is open for all.

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) and fees (to ncacrokinoletreasurer@gmail.com) within 14 days of the event.

Tier 1 Events

Tournaments which have met all of the following thresholds in the previous season will be considered for Tier 1 status in the following season:

- Conformance with all the Tier 1 requirements listed below,
- Demonstrated the highest level of tournament organization, prioritizing competitive integrity and positive player experience,
- Met or exceeded the Tier 1 minimum Field Strength Index (FSI) threshold of 0.8.

Tier 1 events must adhere to the following requirements:¹

- 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.
- 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 criteria² 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).

¹ 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.

² 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.

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).
- The Field Strength Index (FSI) for a Tier 1 tournament will be granted a minimum of 0.8, meaning that the 1st place finisher will receive at least 40 points toward the NCA Tour season.

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 1 event which failed to conform with the requirements for a Tier 1 event.
- A previously listed Tier 1 event which for two successful seasons failed to meet the Tier 1 minimum FSI threshold of 0.8.
- A previously listed Tier 3 event that ran a successful tournament which attracted a Tier 2 strength field and is willing to adhere to additional requirements that the NCA lists for Tier 2 events.

Tournaments which have met all of the following thresholds in the previous season will be considered for Tier 2 status in the following season:

- Conformance with all the Tier 2 requirements listed below,
- Demonstrated the ability to successfully organize and run an NCA tournament,
- Met or exceeded the Tier 2 minimum Field Strength Index (FSI) threshold of 0.6.

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.
- 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).

Tier 2 events benefit from the following privilege:

- The Field Strength Index (FSI) for a Tier 2 tournament will be granted a minimum of 0.6, meaning that the 1st place finisher will receive at least 30 points toward the NCA Tour season.

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 (due to Tier 1 Calendar Priority), otherwise they will remain in Tier 2. 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 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 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.
- The tournament must pay the NCA Tier 3 Fee (currently \$25 CAD).

The Field Strength Index (FSI) for a Tier 3 tournament will be granted a minimum of 0.4, meaning that the 1st place finisher will receive at least 20 points toward the NCA Tour season.

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.

Experimental Events

Tournaments which submit an application requesting permission to use a tournament format or mode of crokinole (other than standard singles or doubles) which deviates from either the NCA Official Rules of Crokinole or from Section 4 of the Tournament Tips and Standards may, at the

discretion of the NCA Board, be labeled an Experimental Event, rather than granted a Tier status. Furthermore, if the NCA Board feels that the experimental format may negatively impact competitive balance on the NCA tour, an FSI maximum may be placed on the tournament as selected by the Board.

Ratified by the NCA Board of Directors May 24th, 2026.