

## New Men's Singles Tournament Format

First off, there isn't a perfect system that addresses ALL situations and scenarios. The organizers have done the best job given the limitations (one day tournament, many players, 10 tables, one event per year, not every Masjid has an accurate rating system, no independent monitors, not much historic data, etc. etc. etc.). Our main goal has always been to bring community together; **however, this year we've taken specific measures to allow players to enjoy, play longer, enhance their game, and really compete in the talent pool they desire.** We feel everyone will enjoy this year's NEW and IMPROVED format, and walk away with a more fulfilled experience. First year was great, last year was better, and InshAllah this year will be better than last, and next year will be better than this. As always, we're listening!

### Player Rankings:

ALL players going into the tournament are given a rank. This rank is based on the following criteria in this order:

1. Rank 1-24. Players who played in the Top 40 Playoffs Bracket last year have been granted preference based on their performance last year. So, for example, Alam Akhtar played last year and ended the tournament in 16<sup>th</sup> place; hence, Alam Akhtar is given a Rank of 16 going into this year's tournament. Of the 40 players that played last year in the Top 40 Playoffs Bracket, 24 are registered this year. So, rank 1-24 are exclusively reserved for them.
2. Rank 25-54 are players in these two categories:
  - a. Players who played last year but did NOT make it to the Top 40 Playoff Bracket are given the next preference based on their performance during Group Play last year.
  - b. Players who did NOT play at all last year, but showed outstanding performance in their local Masjid tournament this year by beating top ranked players are inserted amongst the ranks of 25-51.
3. Rank 55-70 are players who did NOT play last year, and their Masjids submitted their names for this year's tournament. These players were spread among the groups thru a random drawing.

### Group Formation:

ALL players will compete in Group Games first. 10 Groups have been formed. Each Group has 7 players. These seven players consist of players from various rankings. So, for example, EVERY group will have one player from each of the following: 1-10, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s & 60s. We will NOT place players from the same Masjid in the same group.

### Group Games Format:

Players will play a double elimination round within their group. The format is below (match 12 & 13 will not be played):



### Important Note:

During Group play, EVERY player has a chance to improve or maintain their ranking. So, for example, if a 33 ranked player beats a 16 ranked player, he will earn the higher rank going into the Playoffs.

### Playoffs:

After the group play is finished, the players will then be ranked again according to their performance in Group Play, and three Divisions will be formed:

#### Division A:

Top player from each group will advance to Division A. So, total of 10 Players (one from each group will advance to Division A)

#### Division B:

Players placing 2, 3 and 4 in their group will advance to Division B. If these players choose to do so, they can play in Division A, but NOT both.

#### Division C:

Players placing 5, 6 and 7 in their group will advance to Division C. If these players choose to do so, they can play in Division B, but NOT both.

- **Division A, B and C will have their own separate playoff tournaments, and winners in their respective Divisions will receive 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies.**
- If a player in Division B decides to play in Division A, and loses in the first round, he will maintain the same rank for next year. So, for example, after Group Play is finished, Alam Akhtar is ranked 23 and has qualified for Division B, but he decides to play in Division A and loses in the first round, then Alam will maintain his rank of 23 for next year's tournament. However, if Alam decides to stay and play in Division B and gets farther ahead and finishes strong in Division B Playoffs, he would have gained a higher rank in this tournament, and also enter next year's tournament with a higher rating. So, players are encouraged to choose a higher Division **ONLY** if they're really confident and want to compete at a higher level. For most players, staying in their respective Divisions will yield the best competitive environment, and also allow improving their rank/rating for next year.
- Division A players cannot play in Division B or C. Division B cannot play in Division C. Division C cannot play in Div A.
- Format of the Playoff tournament will either be Single Elimination or Double Elimination. This will be decided on Sunday after Group Games have finished, allowing players to decide if they want to play in Division A, B, or C.

### Summary:

- EACH player is given a ranking 1-70 and placed in one of the 10 groups. (Seven players in each group)



- After Group Play is completed, the rankings are re-computed based on Group Play performance and players are divided into three Divisions. Each Division will have their own Playoff Tournament and winners of each Division will receive 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies.

