

Wei Poker Tour 2008

Rules and Guidelines

The WPT believes in always accommodating the players' wants and needs. We have revamped the rules and ranking system for 2008. Please refer to this page for official guidelines. These rules and guidelines are subject to change without notice.

Revision	Major Changes
January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPT standard rules and guidelines required for all tourneys • Live players and ghost stack rules updated • Excused and unexcused absences defined • Standardized on No-Limit Texas Hold 'em • Earnings normalization range increased to \$30 • Membership invitations may be extended by Core vote • Membership invitations may be vetoed, per tourney, by host • Beer Bitch rules and penalties updated • Optional house rules specified
January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent players are represented by empty seats with live chips • Earnings are normalized so that players within ~\$20 are considered equal in money rank • New Final Table and Beer Bitch stats • The WPT membership is refreshed with the first tourney of each season. Membership invitations may be declined and/or rescinded • The first player knocked out in a tourney is the Beer Bitch
April 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPT eligibility guidelines established
March 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial revision of WPT rules first published

I. Tourney Format

A. The 2008 season will feature four major quarterly tournaments with larger buy-in requirements. These majors will have \$20 buy-ins, whereas all other WPT tournaments will have the standard \$10 buy-in.

B. The schedule for the 2008 season will remain the same. If you would like to host a poker night, please send mail to John at [john AT jbwei DOT com] to schedule it or hold your hosting spot.

C. There are no regular cash games on the WPT.

D. These Rules and Guidelines are the standard by which all WPT events must be run. Each section lists optional rules and guidelines at the end, for which the host may or may not choose to incorporate, per house rules. Unless explicitly stated, the Rules and Guidelines stated herein are required to qualify a tournament for WPT season inclusion. Any exceptions to any rules (including those optional house rules) must be clearly stated before play begins.

E. The number and type of payouts will vary slightly with tourney sizes and major tourneys. See below for details.

F. Final table will always be the final 8 players in a tournament, regardless of whether they physically sit at the same table.

G. Optional

1. The final 8 players should be seated at a single "final table".
2. Players who are knocked may elect to stay and deal for the table.

II. Financials

A. Buy-In Amount

1. For regular non-major poker nights, the buy-in is \$10 US per person
2. For the four major poker nights in March, June, September and December, the buy-in is \$20 US per person
3. The house can not take a "rake" or collect any other kind of fee for hosting the game

B. Payouts

1. The WPT targets payouts to 20-30% of the players in any given tournament. Payouts target 70-80% going to the winner, with remaining split among runner-ups. For regular non-major tournaments:
 - a) For games of six players and less, there will only be one payout for the entire sum of the pot
 - b) For games of seven to ten players, there will be two payouts. The second place finisher will earn double the buy-in (\$20 for regular games), and the overall winner will earn the balance of the pot.
 - c) For games of 11 to 15 players, there will be three payouts. The third place finished will earn their buy-in back (\$10 for regular games), the second place finished will earn double the buy-in (\$20), and the overall winner will earn the balance of the pot.
 - d) For games of 16 or greater players, there will be a custom payout schedule to be announced at game time.
2. For major tournaments:
 - a) There will be special payout schedules that do not entirely adhere to the guidelines for regular tournaments.
 - b) Payouts to the winner will still target 70% of the total purse.

C. Optional

1. The host may choose to have food and/or beverage available.
2. Food and/or beverage costs are collected separately; contributions are determined by the host.

III. Schedule

A. Games will be scheduled once a calendar month. The exact day of the month the game is scheduled for is at the discretion of the host.

1. Hosts should create an Evite and invite only John, plus any friends not on the regular WPT distribution list.
2. John will then add the regular distribution list to the Evite.

B. Four times a year, there will be "major" tournaments where the antes and purses are bigger. These majors are scheduled for March, June, September and December.

C. Optional

1. Tournaments will be held once a month, with the particular day being dictated by the tournament host.
2. It is possible for there to be two tournaments in one month, or zero tournaments in one month, if host scheduling so dictates.

IV. Game Types

The WPT standard guidelines will not include any non-Texas Hold 'Em game types. See below for details.

A. The WPT standard game type is No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em.

1. This is the game type for all games using WPT standard rules.
2. Unless somebody volunteers to be full-time dealer, the deal should progress to the left after each hand. Cut should always go to the right.
3. Absent players are represented by empty seats with live chips.
 - a) Absent players will bet out of their stack according to these guidelines:
 - (1) Excused absence (requires advanced notification to host or attending Core member) – Small and big blinds paid as they come around, for up to 90 minutes.
 - (2) Unexcused absence (no notification, excused absence past 90 minutes) – Big blind paid every hand
 - b) Absent players' hands are folded for any hand where a call is required
 - c) Late players are treated as unexcused absent players

B. Optional

1. There should be a minimum of 4 players per table, if there are less than that, the tables should be consolidated.
 - a) When there are multiple tables, but more than 8 total players, and any player has 2 or more extra players, the player with the shortest chip stack should move to the smaller table.
 - b) Live players shall be balanced between tables. E.g., if table 1 has 5 seats with 3 live players and 2 ghost stacks, and table 2 has 5 live players and 0 ghost stacks, they will be balanced to have 4 live players at each table.
 - c) Ghost stacks may or may not be re-balanced.
2. Seating
 - a) Within a table, seating at the beginning of a tournament should be determined by the current year's WPT ranking. The highest ranked player should be in position #1 (dealer), with subsequently ranked players seated in every seat moving clockwise. Unranked players in the current season are ranked by past seasons behind currently ranked players. All previously unranked players are treated the same and ranked behind everyone else.
 - b) Table seating when there is more than one table should be determined by WPT ranking. Players should be evenly distributed by strength so that the tables are evenly matched. WPT Player #1 should be at table 1, WPT Player #2 should be at table 2, WPT Player #3 should be at table 3, WPT Player #4 should be at table 1, etc.
 - c) When merging, final table seating via standard rules should be determined by chip count and by drawing cards to break any ties. The chip leader should sit in position #1 (dealer) with subsequent players being seated to their left.
3. Absent players
 - a) Absent players' hands may be played in the big blind if no bets or raises force them to fold
 - b) Late players' chips are dissolved when merging to a final table: If the absent player makes the seats equal between the merging tables, then the chips are split evenly between the players at the table before the merge. If the absent player makes the seats unequal between the merging tables, the remaining chips are just removed from play.

c) A player may pay for their spot in the tourney, at which point they must be treated like a legitimate player for the length of the tourney, following the betting rules for absent players.

4. Blinds

a) There is no minimum or maximum bet or raise. Can be played with up to 22 players at a table, but generally only eight players at a table.

b) Blinds should progress every time the deal goes all the way around, or on a set time schedule.

c) Standard Blind Schedule:

Time	Blinds	Players
Level removed		
7:00	2/4	16
7:15	4/8	15
		14
7:30	8/16	13
Chip Race to buy out 1 chips		
7:45	10/20	12
8:00	15/30	10
9:00	20/40	8
Level removed		
9:30	30/60	6
Chip race to buy out 5 chips		
10:00	50/100	4
Level removed		
10:30	100/200	2
11:00	125/250	2
11:30	150/300	2
Chip race to but out 25 chips		
11:45	200/400	2
12:00	300/600	2
12:15	400/800	2
12:30	500/1000	2
Level removed		

5. Standard Chip Allocations:

a) Players should be allocated 600 chips to start each tournament

b) Chips may be distributed in any denomination that the host finds suitable, a sample breakdown is provided:

Color	Value	Chips	Total
White	1	20	20
Red	5	11	55
Green	25	3	75
Blue	50	3	150
Black	100	3	300
Totals		40	600

V. WPT Rankings Explained

A. Similar to the 2005 and 2006 seasons, money will be the primary determiner of WPT ranking, with a BCS-style formula to determine tie breakers. The BCS categories will be dictated by the 2005 tournament winners.

B. The primary determinant of WPT season rankings is by total season earnings.

C. WPT ranking tie-breakers for players with the same amount of season earnings is determined by a BCS-style scoring system. The individual categories are dictated by the previous season's tournament winners.

D. Stat categories explained:

1. Wins: Cumulative season wins with career wins in parentheses
2. Losses: Cumulative non-money finishes
3. Money places: Non-winning money finishes (usually second places finishes in tourneys of seven or more)
4. Earnings: Cumulative season earnings with career earnings in parentheses
 - a) Earnings are normalized so that players within ~\$30 are considered equal in money rank
5. Finishing position: Ranking based on finishing position, with weighting for larger tourneys, minimum 3 appearances. For example: Placing 3rd of 10 earns a finishing score of 0.7, whereas placing 3rd of 6 earns a finishing score 0.5. These are averaged over the season.
6. Schedule strength: Weighted scoring based on the rank of opponents. Playing higher ranked opponents earns a high strength of schedule.
7. Ranking categories: For 2008, each of the 2005 tournament winners will get a ranking category that gets figured into the final rank score - Tim Romero (2005 POY), Scott Lenker, Kyle Viau, Ray Perez, Charlie Huang, Kevin Copeland, Neeraj Lal.
8. Knock outs: Cumulative number of players knocked out
9. Overall score: The final score is determined first by season earning rank, with the tie-breakers being an evenly weighted average of the 2008 ranking categories.
10. Final tables: Cumulative number of appearances at the merged final table
11. Beer Bitch: Cumulative number of times first knocked out

E. Optional

1. These rankings are the basis of the WPT standard, nothing is optional

VI. Eligibility

A. The WPT membership is refreshed with the first tourney of each season.

1. Initial membership invitations each season are extended to past WPT members or those with known interest.
2. Membership invitations may be extended by tourney hosts or by majority Core vote.
3. Membership is established by attending a tourney in the current WPT season.
4. Membership may only be extended to male individuals.

B. Membership invitations may be declined and/or rescinded.

1. The founding members (the core council) of the WPT from the 2004 season may decline or rescind any membership or invitation at any time with carte blanche veto power.
2. The core council may, at its discretion, make any rule changes at any time, given a majority of council members present.
3. Any contested decisions rest with the founder of the WPT, whose singular vote supersedes all other decision making bodies if necessary.
4. The host of any WPT event may, at their discretion, veto any invitation for that specific event.

5. Female attendees may be present only if they are wives, girlfriends, roommates, children, or other "significant others" that live in the hosting location.
 - a) Must claim the hosting location as their primary residence.
 - b) Must not be actively present in the playing environment.
 - c) Must not disrupt the tournament in any way.
 - d) Are allowed to act as service support, serving beverages and snacks.

C. Optional

1. Local rules may over-ride select WPT standard rules for a specific tourney.
 - a) The host may elect to exercise house rules to invite a vetoed invitee, but the WPT standings are governed by WPT standard rules and will not reflect the achievements of any unapproved attendees.
2. Female attendees may attend WPT events under the following conditions as dealers.
 - a) Must be considered attractive by at least 50% of the attendees.
 - b) May not participate as players.
 - c) Should be wearing appropriately revealing garments (bikini top or no top is recommended).
 - d) Must not disrupt the tournament in any way.

VII. Special Designations

- A. The first player knocked out in a tourney is the Beer Bitch
 1. The Beer Bitch must wear the pink Strawberry Shortcake hat and serve drinks upon request to anybody at the house, including players subsequently knocked out, friends, dealers, etc.
 - a) Service must be completed within 30 minutes of the order, unless otherwise agreed to by the guest who placed the order.
 2. Their tenure as Beer Bitch lasts until a new Beer Bitch is crowned at the next tourney.
 3. Players may tip the Beer Bitch the minimum denomination chip at the table for beers served. The Beer Bitch may then use that chip to re-enter the active tourney.
 - a) The Beer Bitch must wear the Beer Bitch hat at all times (within reason), removing the hat forfeits their right to re-enter the game, whether or not they have tip chips to play with.
 - b) The minimum and maximum tip allowed for a beer bitch is the smallest chip available at the table.
 4. If a Beer Bitch re-enters a tourney and is successful, they may continue playing until they are KO'd or they win.
 - a) All of the Beer Bitch's earnings, KO's and stats count as normal stats. Because their re-entry chips are not bought with new money, the cash in play remains the same, and the money stat integrity is maintained.
 - b) The exception is that finishing position will not change; Beer Bitch will still be counted as first out.
 - c) The Beer Bitch may not re-enter play when there are four (4) or fewer real players remaining.
 5. For players with at least 1 tourney win:
 - a) If a player is Beer Bitch in consecutive tournaments, he will be penalized a spade trophy.

- b) If a player fails to bring their WPT bracelet, they have 20 minutes after play ends to retrieve it, otherwise they must either forfeit their cash winnings or all trophies associated with said tournament.
 - c) If a player chooses to forfeit their cash winnings to claim their trophies, then the WPT will take custody of those monies to be applied toward entertainment expenses at a future WPT event.
- B. The top ranked player, according to WPT official rankings, after the last tournament is named the Player of the Year
- 1. Player of the year receives
 - a) Special recognition on the WPT website
 - b) A special Player of the Year trophy tile
 - c) A special Player of the Year trophy
 - 2. Player of the Year also assumes several responsibilities
 - a) Hosts the first "Kickoff" tournament of the year
 - b) Is the custodian of the trophy spades and championship bracelets -
 - (1) They are responsible for making sure that a spade and bracelet is available at every tournament
 - (2) They are responsible for passing on a year's worth of spades and extra bracelets to the next Player of the Year
 - c) Is allowed to add one special designation or rule, effective the following season. Past examples:
 - (1) 2004 POY Kevin Copeland: Championship bracelets, trophy spades and POY trophy tile
 - (2) 2005 POY Tim Romero: n/a
 - (3) 2006 POY Scott Lenker: Beer Bitch designation and pink hat
 - (4) 2007 POY Kevin Copeland: POY trophy
- C. Optional
- 1. Drink orders may have no more than 2 ingredients (not including ice).
 - 2. Beer Bitch is allowed to leave the premises to retrieve ingredients and/or drinks, if agreed to by a majority vote of active players.
 - 3. The Beer Bitch may save or accrue chips to re-enter the tourney
 - 4. While playing, the Beer Bitch may add any tips acquired during subsequent beer runs to their active chip stack