

Wei Poker Tour 2011

Rules and Guidelines

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

Table 1 - Revision History

Revision	Major Changes
January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Updates marked in bold, underline and red</u> • <u>Section VII – Special designations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Parts A-1-c,d: Updated BB responsibilities</u> • <u>Part A-3-c: Updated BB re-entry specifics</u> • <u>Part A-5-c: Updated BBoY tiebreaker</u> • <u>Part A-5-f: Update BBoY flair</u> • <u>Part A-5-g: Added provision for new BB hat</u> • <u>Part C-2-c: Updated POY responsibilities</u> • <u>Moved Core and Founder definitions from VI.B into part D</u>
January 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section I (Old): Removed due to redundancy • Section I (New) – Financials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweaked target payouts • Updated trophies for PoY, BBoY • Updated requirements and restrictions around trophies • Added the “Steve Butt Buy-In Rule” for strict buy-in requirements • Section II – Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor updates for player list process, added time of tourney start • Section III (New) – Attendance and Seating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separated this section out by itself • Can not sit with chips until buy-in has been paid • No-show rules added • Extensive updates to excused/unexcused/late rules • Updates to final table seating rules • Added details around ghost stacks, including proxied stacks • Section IV – Game play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed blind schedule and chip requirements • Added the “Steve Butt Timer Rule” to allow for timed play • Added string bet rule • Added clarification for conflicts between verbal and physical actions • Added the “Dave Garnett POY Rule” • Section V – WPT rankings explained: Sync'd definition with website • Section VI – Eligibility: Cosmetic changes only • Section VII – Special designations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated BBoY rule • Added explicit financial responsibilities
January 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section I: Trophy clauses clarified and moved from section VII • Section III: Added proxy player allowances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section VI: Updated Beer Bitch rules
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

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.

I. Financials

A. Buy-In Amount

1. For regular non-major poker nights, the buy-in is \$10 US per person
2. For the four "Majors" in March, June, September and December, the buy-in is \$20 US per person
3. The "**Steve Buff Buy-In Rule**" - Players must pay their buy-in up front before playing, i.e., there is no "playing on credit."
 - a) If the buy-in is not paid before the final table, then they become ineligible for any and all trophies
 - b) If the buy-in is not paid before the remaining players are guaranteed payouts (e.g., 3 remaining players if there are payouts to first, second and third place), then the offending player becomes ineligible to receive any payout.
 - (1) At that point, the offending player is just playing "for fun" and they are removed from the rankings for that tourney. i.e., if they finish first, the second place player will actually be considered first and take all winnings and trophies instead.
 - (2) The offending player will show in the rankings either as their regular finishing position or as the highest position with no money, whichever is lower.
 - (3) The offending player is able to accrue final table, (altered) finishing position, and knock out stats, but will earn no money, no win and no trophies.
4. 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 60-80% 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 60-70% of the total purse.
3. There are no regular cash games on the WPT.

C. Trophies

1. Spade or club trophies are awarded to the winner of each tournament.
2. Quarterly Major winners are awarded an additional royal flush Major trophy.

3. Player of the Year is awarded an additional POY trophy and POY bobble chip prize
 4. Beer Bitch of the Year is awarded a red heart trophy.
 5. For players with 1 or more WPT wins
 - a) If the player fails to bring their WPT bracelet, Core will set a specified amount of time after play ends to retrieve it, otherwise they must either forfeit their cash winnings or all trophies associated with said tournament.
 - b) 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.
- D. Optional
1. The host may choose to have food, beverage and/or entertainment available.
 2. Food, beverage, and/or entertainment costs must be collected separately from the tourney buy-in and not for profit; contributions are determined by the host.

II. Schedule

- A. Games will be scheduled once a calendar month.
1. Hosts should create an Evite
 2. John will provide the regular WPT distribution list ahead of time
- 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. The standard tournament start time is at 7:00pm PT.
- D. Optional
1. The exact day of the month the game is scheduled for is at the discretion of the 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.
 3. The host may change the start time per their discretion.
 4. It is customary to have food, if provided, available at 6:00pm PT.
 5. The host may invite any other male friends not already on the WPT distribution
 6. If you would like to host a poker night, please send mail to John at john@jbwei.com to schedule it or hold your hosting spot.

III. Attendance and Seating

- A. All players are expected to be on-time and ready to play when the host begins the tournament.
1. Excused absences
 - a) Requires advanced notification to host or attending Core member
 - b) Their "yes" response on the evite holds a seat with live cards and chips at the tourney
 - c) The chip stack at their empty seat pays the small and big blinds as they come around, for up to 90 minutes
 - d) Hands are folded for any hand where a call is required, but cards played in the big blind may stay live for the entire hand
 - e) Upon arrival, player must pay the buy-in before they can play their chips
 2. Unexcused absences
 - a) A late player is considered an unexcused absence if there has been no notification
 - b) An excused absence becomes an unexcused absence past 90 minutes
 - c) Their "yes" response on the evite holds a seat with live cards and chips at the tourney
 - d) The chip stack at their empty seat pays the big blind every hand until 2 hours after the start of the tourney, at which point both big and small blinds are paid every hand

- e) Upon arrival, player must pay the buy-in before they can play their chips
 - 3. No-show
 - a) A no-show is a player that fails to appear at a tournament with an evite response of "yes" without notification of cancellation
 - b) A no-show player must pay the missed tournament fee before they can play in another tournament
 - c) A no-show player must also issue a formal apology which can be in the form of:
 - (1) A written letter to Core
 - (2) A stand-up verbal apology in front of the entire next tournament
 - (3) Hosted snacks for everyone at the next tournament
 - 4. Optional
 - a) Core may vote to override absence, lateness, and/or no-show penalties due to extenuating circumstances
 - b) Host may change the time limits for excused, unexcused, and late players
- B. Seating
- 1. Order
 - 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.
 - 2. Ghost stacks
 - a) Paid proxy
 - (1) 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 excused absent players, but with no time limit.
 - (2) A paying absentee player may designate a proxy to execute rules on how their chips will be played. The proxy can not look at the absentee player's cards, but may execute pre-determined betting strategies on the dark cards. The proxy rules are unrestricted, but may be overturned by Core vote if they are overly disruptive to regular play.
 - (3) Paid proxied chips are eligible for all WPT stats, winnings and awards, including knock outs and Beer Bitch.
 - b) Late players, either excused or unexcused, are represented by ghost stacks which are played according to the rules for absent players
 - c) Optional: If there are multiple tables with an uneven number of players at each table, ghost stacks may be added to the lesser tables to make the total chip count available at each table even
 - 3. Final table
 - a) Final table will always be the final 8 players in a tournament, regardless of whether they physically sit at the same table.
 - b) Absent/late players
 - (1) At Core discretion, an excused late player within the 90 minute limit can be included as the 8th player at a final table. i.e., if there are 9 total

players (8 live, 1 ghost stack for late player), then play will continue until the next knock out before the final table is determined.

(2) Unexcused late players are not eligible to make a final table. i.e., if there are 9 total players (8 live, 1 ghost stack for the late player), then the ghost stack is dissolved and a final table with 8 live players is declared. If total table chip counts were balanced with the ghost stack, then ghost stack is evenly distributed among the table that it is at before the tables merge. If total table chip counts were not balanced, then the ghost stack is simply removed.

c) Ghost stacks

(1) A paid ghost stack, with or without proxy, is always considered a live player and is eligible for the final table. i.e., if there are 9 total players (8 live, 1 paid ghost stack), then play will continue until the next knock out before the final table is determined.

(2) Ghost stacks created to balance chip count between uneven tables are not associated with any live players will be dissolved among the table that they are at before merging to a final table. i.e., if table 1 has 4 live players and table 2 has 4 live players plus a ghost stack, then the ghost stack is evenly distributed among the live players at table 2 and a final table is declared.

4. Optional

a) Players who are knocked out may elect to stay and deal for the table.

b) The final 8 players should be seated at a single "final table".

c) When merging, final table seating 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.

d) There should be a minimum of 4 players per table, if there are less than 4, the tables should be consolidated.

e) 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.

f) 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.

IV. Game Play

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

B. 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.

C. When there is a full-time dealer at the table, a dealer marker will progress around the table indicating who would have been dealer, even though the cards may not come from them.

D. If a player does not verbally announce "raise," then pushing a stack of chips into the pot followed by a distinct second action to put more chips in the pot is considered a "string bet." String bets are not allowed. A player raising must either push all chips into the pot at one time, or verbally declare "raise" at which point they may choose to push in chips in two actions – one for the call and one for the raise.

E. If a player verbally announces an action, then that is the action they are committed to, even if their chip action is incongruent. If there is a difference, it will be corrected to their verbal announcement. Examples:

1. Player announces "All in" but leaves a chip "marker" on their cards. The marker is considered part of their all-in bet.

2. Player announces "Raise 100" but only puts in chips to raise 50. Their raise will be corrected to 100.
3. Player announces "Raise 100" but puts in chips to raise 200. Their raise will be corrected to 100.

F. The "**Steve Butt Timer Rule**"

1. Players are expected to consider their move and make decisions within a reasonable amount of time
2. If a single player is taking excessive time to make decisions, either the host or any member of Core may call into effect a 2 minute time limit on that play
3. Once the 2 minute time limit expires, then that player's hand is automatically folded if no action has been taken yet
4. Once the 2 minute time limit has been activated for a player, it can be activated for that player at any time for the rest of the tournament, by any other player, Core, host or other
5. If the 2 minute time limit ever expires resulting in an auto-fold, the timer for subsequent plays for that player becomes 1 minute

G. Optional

1. 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.
2. Blinds should progress every time the deal goes all the way around, or on a set time schedule.
3. The "**Dave Garnett POY Rule**" - If a player makes a bet with a single chip that is greater than the previous bet without explicitly saying "raise," then this may be considered a "one-chip call." If somebody at the table exercises this rule, then the player making the "one-chip call" will receive change from the pot so that their action is a "call" and not a "raise."
4. Once a year there is a Core Council event where dealer chooses which game is played. The game is played until deal returns to the original caller of the game, then the next dealer chooses a new game.

V. WPT Rankings Explained

- A. The primary determinant of WPT season rankings is by normalized total season earnings, where players within \$30 are considered to have the same earnings.
- B. 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.
- C. Stat categories explained:
 1. Rank: Current season ranking
 2. Record: Wins/Losses/Money
 3. Wins: Outright #1 finishes
 4. Losses: Non-money finishes
 5. Money: Non-winning money finishes (usually second places finishes in tourneys of seven or more)
 6. Earnings: Cumulative season earnings with career earnings in parentheses
 - a) Note: Starting in 2008, earnings are normalized so that players within ~\$30 are considered equal in money rank
 7. Wins: Cumulative season wins with career wins in parentheses
 8. Pos: Ranking based on finishing position, with weighting for larger tourneys, minimum 3 appearances
 9. SOS: Strength of schedule, based on opponents' win/loss record and opponents' win/loss record
 10. KO: Cumulative season knock outs

11. FT: Final tables made
12. BB: Number of times first knocked out

D. Optional

1. These rankings are the basis of the WPT, 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 Core Council of the WPT may decline or rescind any membership or invitation at any time with carte blanche veto power.
2. The host of any WPT event may, at their discretion, veto any invitation(s) for that specific event.

C. Female attendees may be present only if they are wives, girlfriends, roommates, children, or other "significant others" that live in the hosting location.

1. Must claim the hosting location as their primary residence.
2. Must not be actively present in the playing environment.
3. Must not disrupt the tournament in any way.
4. Are allowed to act as service support, serving beverages and snacks.

D. 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 negatively disrupt the tournament in any way.

VII. Special Designations

A. The "**Scott Lenker POY Rule**" - The first player knocked out in a tourney is the Beer Bitch (BB)

1. The Beer Bitch must wear the designated Beer Bitch 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.
- b) If the BB hat is not available, then another suitable hat may be substituted, pending Core vote.
- c) **Beer Bitch must serve everyone requesting service, even if that person did not request beer, or is requesting a non-alcoholic beverage.**
- d) **Service agreement is limited to beverages however, snacks and food are considered above and beyond, and are not required.**

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 maximum tip allowed for a beer bitch is five times the smallest chip available at the table.

c) If there are multiple tables, the Beer Bitch must stay at the table where they were knocked out.

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 at the final table, but may stay at the final table as the 9th player if they were there when the tables merged.

d) For tournaments that start with 9 or fewer players, thus resulting in an automatic final table when or before the Beer Bitch is named, the Beer Bitch may re-enter up until there are four (4) or fewer paid players remaining (this can include a paid ghost stack). i.e., the BB can be the fifth remaining player, but not the fourth.

e)

5. Beer Bitch of the Year (BBoY) - A special Beer Bitch trophy will be awarded at the end of each season to the overall season Beer Bitch. This is determined by:

a) For players with at least 1 tourney win: If a player is Beer Bitch in consecutive tournaments, he will be penalized a spade trophy and will be awarded the overall season Beer Bitch trophy.

b) If there were no penalized players, the player with the most Beer Bitches will qualify.

c) If there is a tie, the trophy will go to the player with the lower WPT rank **with a minimum of three tourney appearances in the season.**

d) The BBoY serves as the back-up Beer Bitch at all tourneys the following season where the BB from the previous month does not appear and assumes all BB duties until a new BB is crowned

e) The BBoY is the custodian of the BB hat and is expected to make sure that the hat is available at every tournament, whether or not they play in it

f) Each retiring BBoY has the opportunity to pick out a single piece of "flair" to add to the BBoY hat. This can be anything from patches, to pins, to battery operated moving or light producing objects. It should be of an appropriate BB theme. The BBoY hat continues to grow with flair each season.

g) If the BB hat has become overworn and needs to be replaced, the reigning BBoY is responsible for choosing and acquiring the new BB hat.

6. Optional

a) Drink orders may have no more than 2 ingredients (not including ice).

b) Beer Bitch is allowed to leave the premises to retrieve ingredients and/or drinks, if agreed to by a majority vote of active players.

c) The Beer Bitch may save or accrue chips to re-enter the tourney

d) While playing, the Beer Bitch may add any tips acquired during subsequent beer runs to their active chip stack

B. The "**Kevin Copeland POY Rule**" - 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 bobble chip trophy
2. POY is allowed to add one special designation or rule, effective the following season.
Past examples:

- a) 2004 POY Kevin Copeland: Championship bracelets, trophy spades and POY trophy tile
- b) 2005 POY Tim Romero: n/a
- c) 2006 POY Scott Lenker: Beer Bitch designation and pink hat
- d) 2007 POY Kevin Copeland: POY bobble chip trophy
- e) 2008 POY Dave Garnett: One-Chip Call

C. Financial Responsibilities

- 1. The first "Kickoff" tournament of the year: Hosted by POY
- 2. Trophy spades and championship bracelets: POY
 - a) Must make a spade or club available at each tournament, even if they are not playing
 - b) Must make a blank bracelet available at each tournament, even if they are not playing
 - c) **Must buy 12 spades or clubs and extra bracelets to pass on to the next POY, logistics to be passed down by previous POY**
- 3. Player of the Year Bobble Chip trophies: Kevin Copeland
- 4. Player of the Year tiles: Kevin Copeland
- 5. Red heart "Bitch" tiles: Scott Lenker
- 6. Royal flush "Major" tiles: John Wei

D. **Decision Making Bodies**

- 1. **The Core Council ("Core") is responsible for defining the rules, guidelines and membership list of the WPT. Core is comprised of senior players on tour, and inclusion in Core is by invitation only.**
- 2. **Core may, at its discretion, make any rule changes at any time, given a majority of Core members present.**
- 3. **Any contested decisions rest with the founder of the WPT, whose singular vote supersedes all other decision making bodies if necessary.**