

ILSA Tournament of Champions

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The Illinois Shuffleboard Association hosts a Tournament of Champions (ToC) every year to reward and celebrate top ILSA point earners and valued members of the community.

Here's how it works:

Player Selection

16 players will be invited to participate in the Tournament of Champions. There are three ways to be selected:

- The top 10 players from the previous year's point standings will be invited
 - At least 10 players will be invited based on the number of points they earned.
 - If there are 2 people tied for 10th place, meaning there are 11 people in the "top 10" then we would include all 11.
 - Ties earlier in the standings will be taken into account to reach 10 players. For example, if player A has 10 points, players B and C have 9 points, player D has 8 points then player A is in 1st, B and C are tied for 2nd, and D is in 4th.
 - In the event that someone from the top 10 cannot participate, we will invite the next player(s) down the rankings list until we have 10 players.
- The previous year's ToC winner will be invited if they do not receive an invitation based on the number of points they earned in the previous year
- The remaining invitations to bring the total player count up to 16 will be given to community members based on merit.
 - The ToC commission and ILSA board will nominate players to the board for consideration
 - Each board member casts a vote to select the community members to participate
 - Board members who were invited via either of the two previous criteria may nominate players but may not vote in the election
 - If a board member is nominated, that person may choose either to accept the nomination to be on the ballot or to vote.
 - The players with the most votes will be invited to fill the remaining spots

This player selection process will be effective for the tournaments to be held in both 2025 and 2026.

Tournament Format

Although the player selection process will remain consistent, the format may change annually based on the commission's goals.

This year, the commission wanted to be mindful of the length and pace of play while continuing to put our champions to the test. Outlined in detail below, the 2025 ToC will challenge competitors to adapt as they advance through the tournament.

For all games, [ILSA's Rules of Play](#) are in effect.

The ToC Commission members for the event to honor the 2024 players are: Sammy Wachholz, Jim Seesel (tournament director), and Lauren Seesel (commission lead). They can be reached at toc@illinoisshuffleboard.org if there are any problems or questions.

Overview

- This tournament will be held on **Sunday, April 6th, 2025**.
- The tournament will begin with pool play of non-walking singles matches followed by a four-person, single-elimination bracket of walking singles to determine a champion.
- Every player is guaranteed 3 matches.
- There is NO coaching for this tournament. Players may not ask observers for shot advice.

Pool Play

- The 16 qualified players will be divided into four pools of four players.
- Players will be ranked based on the ILSA point standings and sorted across the pools. Ties will be broken using ELO where necessary.
- Each player will complete a match against each of the opponents in their pool.
- The top finisher in each pool will advance.
- Matches are a single non-walking, 8-frame game.
 - Lag to determine color (See Section 2.3.2 of ILSA's Rules of Play).
 - Shooting order is YBYB
 - Change colors before frame 5.
 - If the score is tied at the end of 8 frames, players will play an additional 2 frames until the tie is broken.
- Practice:
 - Practice begins when both players are ready at the court.
 - One round (4 biscuits per player) of practice is allowed before frames 1 and 5.
- Ties within pools will be broken in the following order:
 - Head-to-head match result
 - Point differential (capped at 24 points per game)
 - Two rounds of Speed Shuffle (one from the head of the court and one from the foot of the court)

Semi-finals

- The top finisher in each pool will advance to this round for a 4-player, single-elimination bracket.
- Each match is a walking, 16-frame game.
 - Lag to determine starting color (See Section 2.3.2 of ILSA's Rules of Play).
 - Shooting order is YBBY
 - Change colors before frame 9.
 - If the score is tied at the end of 16 frames, players will play an additional 2 frames until tie is broken.
- Practice:
 - Practice begins when both players are ready at the court.
 - Two rounds of practice (one frame from the head, one frame from the foot) are allowed before frames 1 and 9.

Finals

- Players who won their semi-final match will advance to the finals.
- Players who lost their semi-final match will play for 3rd/4th place.
- Both these games will follow the same format as the previous round:
 - Each match is a walking, 16-frame game.
 - Lag to determine starting color (See Section 2.3.2 of ILSA's Rules of Play).
 - Shooting order is YBBY
 - Change colors before frame 9.
 - If the score is tied at the end of 16 frames, players will play an additional 2 frames until tie is broken.
 - Practice:
 - Practice begins when both players are ready at the court.
 - Two rounds of practice (one frame from the head, one frame from the foot) are allowed before frames 1 and 9.

Day-of Schedule

- 12:00p - Doors open at Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club Chicago.
- 12:15p - Players, find your court and take a few warm-up shots.
- 12:30p - Opening remarks
- 12:45p - Play begins: lag for color then start your matches.
- 3:30p - Semi-finals begin (approximately).
- 4:30p - Finals begin (approximately).
- 5:30p - Awards and closing remarks (approximately).

Awards

- 1st Place - \$400 Cash and a ToC Trophy
- 2nd Place - \$200 Cash
- 3rd Place - \$100 Cash
- 4th Place - \$50 Cash
- All players - 2024 TOC Pin

ILSA points are NOT awarded in the Tournament of Champions as it is not open to all ILSA Members.