

# Australia Esports Federation Season 3 Rules and Information

## 1 TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

### 1.1 Schedule

The online stage of the tournament will commence on the 9th of October 2017 and finish 20th of November 2017. For all divisions, each team will be play 1 game series per week.

Division 1 matches will be played in 4 available time slots: 8pm Monday, 8pm Tuesday, 8pm Wednesday, and 8pm Thursday.

Division 2 matches will be played in 4 available time slots: 8pm Monday, 8pm Tuesday, 8pm Wednesday, and 8pm Thursday.

Division 3 matches will be played in 4 available time slots: 8pm Monday, 8pm Tuesday, 8pm Wednesday, and 8pm Thursday.

All referred times are in Melbourne/Sydney time zone, to be affected by Daylight Savings where appropriate.

### 1.2 Format

All divisions will be played over a 7-week period in a single round robin format, where each team will play each other team. Matches in the main tournament will be played in a best of 3 format. The team that wins 2-0 will gain 2 league points and the team that wins 2-1 will gain 1 league point. The top 4 teams in Division 1 will be invited to the online finals stage of the tournament where the winner will be decided via a double elimination format. These finals are to be played on the 25th and 26th of November.

The winner of the Division 2 will be the team with the highest number of points at the end of the season.

The first tie breaker will be total number of 2-0 victories, and the second tie breaker will be the results of their head-to-head match. As a final tie breaker, there will be a play-off in a Bo3. There will be no "finals" for Division 2.

The winner of the Division 3 will be the team with the highest number of points at the end of the season.

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## 2 REGISTRATION

### 2.1 Availability

The AEF Season 3 Division 2 and Division 3 tournament is available for all teams provided that they can play on a stable connection to the Australia game server. Division 1 is strictly by invite only.

## 2.2 Sign Up

Team captains will be sent a Direct Invitation where applicable; alternatively they may request a sign-up package by emailing [rfarr@australiaesports.net](mailto:rfarr@australiaesports.net). Team captains will then be asked to provide a list of players they wish to register in their roster, including individual emails for players. AEF will then email each individual player a copy of this document. Players must reply signifying their agreement to adhere to the rules contained in this document.

Players will be required to provide a STEAM\_ID link to their chosen steam account. They MUST play all games using their nominated account, and MUST NOT use any other Steam account, with no exceptions. If their nominated account is unavailable for any legitimate reason, such as VAC bans or stolen passwords, then the AEF admin may provide a 'dummy account' for that player to use for the duration of the particular series that the player's account is unavailable.

All team captains and players have a responsibility to read the tournament rules, and check the schedule for their games based off the PDF document sent to them prior to the start of the season, as well as the Discord chat. These are the official channels of communication between Tournament Officials and Captains.

AEF reserves the right to decline applications from teams to join our events, or to ban individual players from participating. This is subject to various factors, including but not limited to: previous poor behaviour, previous breaking of rules, forfeiting or disqualification from previous events, etc. All AEF decisions on this matter are final.

## 2.3 Bond

A team bond of \$100 is required for each registering team for Divisions 1,2 and 3. This bond is used to ensure teams behave professionally at all times during the tournament. Teams that leave the tournament at any point before the conclusion of the season will forfeit their bond. Fines that are imposed for breaking the league rules will also be deducted from the bond. This is a bond that will be refunded at the completion of the tournament assuming no monetary penalties have been applied to the team.

The entirety of the bond MUST be paid in full BEFORE the commencement of the tournament, unless extenuating circumstances can be demonstrated with ample evidence (such as bank error, PayPal delay, etc). Evidence of funds in transition is sufficient. If these requirements are not met, teams may be penalised varying from match forfeiture, points deduction, up to disqualification from the event.

## 3 Game Play

### 3.1 Game Version

All games in the AEF Season 3 tournament will be played using the current game version of Dota 2, as it is provided by Valve Software. If there are game updates during the tournament, then the most recent game version will be played.

### 3.2 Game Mode

All games will be played in the Captain's Mode format. A coin flip will occur before each game for a series. The team that wins the flip will choose side or pick order. The team that did not win the flip in the first game will get to choose side or pick order for the second game. If there is a third game, there will be another coin flip.

### 3.3 Pauses

Teams are entitled to pause the game if there are latency issues or if a player disconnects during the middle of the game, or even if they just need a break for any reason. AEF are aware of technical issues with Dota 2 and will allow players to pause games within reason.

Teams are entitled to a total of 15 mins pause time each, per game. Explanation for each pause in game should be provided by the team.

If a team exceeds their pause time, it is up to the opposing team's discretion to use their own pause time to wait. If the opposing team does not agree for more time, then the team with the disconnected player(s) must continue to play with remaining players, but they may use the missing player(s) hero, as per the ingame client.

Teams that intentionally unpauses the game during the allocated time may be penalised for unsportsmanlike behaviour. Penalties may be deduction of league points or fines, as determined by the AEF administration. More unsportsmanlike behaviour is covered in the Unsportsmanlike section. □

### 3.4 Remaking of Lobbies□

If there is an issue that arises during the drafting stage or first 5 minutes of gameplay, a team may suggest a remaking of the game. This is up to the opposing team to accept.

If a remake is requested due to a player's inability to maintain a stable connection to the game server, due to either hardware or internet connection issues, then the player's team may request that the game is remade with a replacement drawn from their list of registered substitutes. This must be approved by the other team. □ If a remake is to occur during the drafting stage, the game will be remade as a Captains Mode lobby, and drafters will pick and ban the same heroes up to the point where the previous lobby was remade.

If a remake is to occur after the drafting stage has been completed, it will be remade as an All-Pick lobby and players will pick the same heroes with no exceptions. There is no requirement from that point on regarding gameplay decisions such as items, skilling of abilities or any other variable.

### 3.5 Game Server

All games are to be played on Australia servers, with no exceptions. If a connection cannot be made to the servers for technical reasons, the series will be rescheduled.

### 3.6 Lateness

Any lateness will be penalised by levels 1, 2 or 3 drafting time penalties, for less than 5 mins, 5 to 10 mins, and 10 to 15 mins lateness respectively. Any lateness in excess of 15 mins will result in a game forfeit in favour of the other team. Any lateness in excess of 20 mins will result in a series forfeit in favour of the other team.

It is the responsibility of players to ensure that their game client is fully updated. Lateness based on the need to download the update will not be accepted, unless in exceptional circumstances, to be decided at admin's discretion.

## 4 Prize Money

### 4.1 Distribution

The winning team of the AEF Season 3 Division 1 will take away \$2500. The second team will take \$1000, the third team will take \$500, and the fourth team will take \$150.

The winning team of the AEF Season 3 Division 2 will take away \$400. The second team will take \$250 and the third team will take \$50.

The winning team of the AEF Season 3 Division 3 will be given an AEF Mouse and Mousepad set of their choosing, to each of the main players.

Any prize won will be sent by the AEF to the Captain of the winning team. From that point on it is the responsibility of the team captain to distribute prize pool.

## 5 New Season Grading

### 5.1 Promotion and Relegation

At the end of each season, the bottom team of each division will be relegated from that division into a lower division and conversely, the top team of a lower division will be promoted to a higher division. The 7th placed team of a higher division will play a best-of-3 playoff series against the 2nd placed team of a lower division to determine promotion or relegation.

AEF reserves the right to not invite or promote certain teams or individuals despite good results. For example if a team mathematically qualifies for promotion or a direct invite, but either committed multiple or repeating infractions and/or unsportsmanlike/unprofessional behaviours, then we will consider taking action against them, such as a reduction in points, demotion in division, up to and including disqualifying from the tournament. We would also consider issuing bans on these teams or individuals from participating in future events run by the AEF. This is to promote good sportsmanship and behaviour from teams and players as well as encourage following of the rules.

## 5.2 New League Teams

New teams that wish to enter the tournament will enter in the lowest currently running Division, unless they can show good cause for entering in a higher division. However, no teams will be allowed to enter directly into Division 1, unless under exceptional circumstances, such as a new team being formed from former Division 1 team members.

## 6 Teams and Players

### 6.1 Players per team

Each team can register up to 5 primary players and up to 2 substitutes within their roster (may be increased at the league's discretion). Each player may only be registered to one team. Players may not create alias ('smurf') accounts to hide their identities to get around this rule. If any player is found to breach these rules, both the team and players may be subjected to severe penalties up to and including disqualification from the event.

This should be considered a roster lock as per Valve event rules.

### 6.2 Stand-in players

Stand-in players may be used in special circumstances where a team cannot field 5 players drawn from their roster. A stand-in for a Division 1 team may be drawn from any rostered Division 2 or 3 players, or any player not rostered onto a team for either Division 1 or Division 2 or Division 3. A stand-in for a Division 2 team may be drawn from any rostered Division 3 players, or any player not rostered onto a team for either Division 1 or Division 2. A stand-in for a Division 3 team may be drawn from any player not rostered onto a team for either Division 1, Division 2 or Division 3 team.

Each usage of a stand-in must be cleared in advance with an AEF admin. AEF prefers at least 24 hours notice but will accept less notice if unforeseen circumstances can be demonstrated, eg a player taking ill at the last minute.

Any team found to be attempting to abuse this rule will be subject to severe penalties up to and including disqualification from the event.

### 6.3 End of Season Transfers

After the completion of the league games and all promotion/relegation matches, teams will have opportunity to change their rosters for the next season. All team rosters may be changed at their discretion, but any significant changes will impact on whether teams get invited to the next season. This will be decided at admins' discretion on individual basis.

## 7 Unacceptable Behaviours

## 7.1 Unsportsmanlike

All players and teams playing in the league are expected to behave with good sportsmanship at all times. Any unsportsmanlike behaviour is subjected to a range of penalties that will be imposed by the league. Unsportsmanlike behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- In game swearing, trolling, spamming or any other action that is designed to anger other viewers or players
- Unpausing a game within the allocated period of 10 times when another player has disconnected
- Pausing a game without good reason in critical moments (tactical pause)
- Intentional feeding, ability abuses or deliberately throwing a game
- Giving false intent to surrender, such as saying "gg" and taking advantage of the opposition when they have assumed that you've conceded

All-chat that is part of friendly banter is a valued part of Dota2 and is such encouraged in reasonable doses. All-chat that is NOT friendly banter will not be tolerated. Admins reserve final decision on what sort of all-chat is acceptable and what is not, and penalisation applied where appropriate. The general rule here is 'Don't be a dick'.

Any player or team that conducts unsportsmanlike behaviour will be subjected to penalties ranging from deduction or league points, monetary fines or bans from the league.

## 7.2 Unprofessional

The AEF is a professional league designed for players who wish grow as professional players. As such, professional behaviour is expected at all times. Unprofessional behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Not showing up to a game, without notification
- Showing up late to a game, without notification
- Quitting the league mid tournament
- Deliberately throwing games

A specific ban against any player accessing the twitch stream during a game they are participating in is in place. A game is deemed to have started when the lobby starts. Therefore no participating players are allowed to access the twitch stream during the drafting stage of the game. Any player found to be doing so will be considered 'stream sniping' and subject to the most severe level of penalties.

The league asks for a \$100 bond up front to protect itself and other teams from potential unprofessional behaviour. Players or teams that display any of the listed or similar behaviours will be subjected to severe penalties, such as fines or bans from the league.

### 7.3 Legitimate Scheduling Issues

Rescheduling due to technical difficulties will be granted on a case-by-case scenario. These technical difficulties include, but are not limited to, inability to connect to game servers, inability to download updates, power grid failure, and natural disasters. A team desiring to participate in another tournament that clashes in time will not be granted a reschedule unless in special circumstances, such as unexpected progression, and will be granted on a case-by-case scenario.

## 8 Penalty system

### 8.1 Penalties: Light and severe

Light: All-chat that is not friendly banter

Lateness to games

Disrespect shown to either admins or opponents, in whatever way shape or form

Foul language in all chat, whether part of friendly banter or not

accidental 'gg' calls (chat-wheel)

Severe: Consistent all-chat mocking/flaming

Consistent lateness to games

Deliberately unpausing the game without agreement from both teams

Tactical pausing or dc to gain advantages

Intentionally feeding or losing games

Match fixing of any sort

False/cancelled GG calls.

Stream sniping

Penalties will range from, but are not limited to, players being suspended for a certain number of series, players being suspended from playing entirely, teams being awarded forfeits, and teams being disqualified. All penalty actions will be documented in a report released no later than 3 business days after the event.

All penalty actions taken will require a majority decision from all AEF tournament officials.

### 8.2 Tournament Officials Accountability

Any decision made through Admin discretion will be reviewed by another Admin in the interests of objectivity and consistency within this AEF rules document. In any decision that imposes a penalty on a player or team, the Admin that made the decision will provide an explanation and rationale to the affected player or team.

## 9 Team Payment Disputes

In light of recent events in the esports scene, it has come to the league's attention that the professionalism of e-sports teams' payments is not as good as it could be. In a tournament such as the AEF Season 2, players or teams may experience internal disputes regarding payments.

If there are disputes of this kind, the AEF is happy to act as a 3rd party arbitrator for such matters to ensure that everyone is treated fairly. The directors of the AEF have experience with legal matters and will do its best to provide factual advice to all involved parties.

Admins reserve the right to make any final decisions on the rules based on their discretion and interpretation. All admin decisions are considered final. No debating or attempted altering of an admin decision by players will be tolerated. No attempted bribery or corruption of admins will be tolerated, and will be penalised severely.

## 10 Schedule, Bracket and Results

The correct schedule, bracket and results are emailed to Team Captains/Managers or published on official AEF social media. Liquipedia pages for Season 3 should NOT be taken as accurate or up to date.

## 11 Terminology clarification

Game: 1 individual game

Series: The match-up including the entirety of the Bo3.

Substitute: A registered player on a roster who is not part of the primary 5.

Standin: A non-registered player standing in as a replacement.

Admin: AEF currently have 3 official admins, aka Tournament Officials: Richard 'Praetorian' Farr, Elliot 'Cognus' Yung, Tony 'chosen1' Shao. Any changes to admin positions will be announced officially.