

VGS JUNIOR CHALLENGE LADDER
TOURNAMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: RULES AND PROCEDURES

Please note the items listed below to assist parents and members in understanding the Tournament Assistance Program Rules and Procedures for the current ladder year.

- 1) Tournament Assistance Program: VGS has a budget allocated for use ONLY by the Junior Challenge Ladder members to help reimburse some of their costs for playing specific tournaments during the ladder year which begins September 1st and ends on August 31st of the following year. The total budget dollars are split equally among all eligible players based on the completion of 12 or more matches played.
- 2) Specific tournaments listed as eligible for financial reimbursement: This reimbursement will apply ONLY to the tournaments that are listed in the National Junior Tournament Schedule plus the three Southern Championships (Closed, Open and Indoor) and the GA Jr. Qualifier. Also eligible are any four of the “Icy Hots” (level 2) held in the Southern section during the eligible tournament assistance time period, September 1 – August 31 of each year.
- 3) How the financial formula is split for payment to members and time period when the checks are planned to be sent to eligible ladder members: VGS will reimburse eligible members a set amount per tournament played based on qualifying by playing 12 or more matches. Payments to players are divided equally by the number of qualifying tournaments that members participated in . After member’s eligibility for payment is verified and all tournament applications are received, reviewed and documented, individual checks will be processed and mailed to members prior to Christmas after the closing of the ladder year. The amount varies based on the Annual Budget available from VGS . These amounts are subject to change, up or down annually, based on VGS ’s allocated player development funds.
- 4) The required number of ladder matches needed to qualify: Twelve or more total ladder matches played during the Autumn session. See below for counting guidelines regarding which Junior Challenge Ladder matches are and are not counted for Tournament Assistance.
- 5) Other eligibility requirements must be met: Ladder members must have played the entire session of the ladder year.
 - a) Tournament Assistance will not be reimbursed to players who have played less than twelve matches or round robins during the session. There is no allowance for injuries, illnesses, school or personal conflicts, or for any weather related disruptions to play.

b) Parents and members are responsible for getting their applications for Tournament Assistance into the VGS office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, 2016. As VGS's final accounting formula figures, paid out to individuals, are equally split into fair share for all who qualify. Any late applications accepted would invalidate the accounting figures causing changes to the amounts due and/or paid out to everybody who applied properly. For that reason, any late applications will not be accepted at the VGS office, including late mailed arrivals.

LATE APPLICATIONS RULE: Parents and members are responsible for filling out the application forms and delivering them to the VGS office by the deadline time and date. If the deadline is not met then the parents and member have forfeited their right to be included in receiving this Tournament Assistance benefit for the current eligibility year.

c) LATE DEADLINE APPEALS: If the parents and member believe they have extenuating circumstances that deserve review, they may appeal in writing to the VGS President with copies to the Challenge Ladder Vice President. Appeals may be accepted at the VGS office until October 10th following the announced submittal deadline date. No appeals will be accepted after that date, including those arriving late in the mail. For this latter reason, appeals should be hand delivered to the VGS office.

d) Any player may be considered ineligible for Tournament Assistance by joint decision of the Junior Challenge Ladder Vice President and the VGS President based on review of any specific incident or incidents (which might include extremely poor sportsmanship, unacceptable court behavior, etc.) which may have occurred during the Junior Challenge Ladder year. Players in this category will be advised of this decision in writing as soon as the ruling is issued.

e) Any member who was suspended from Junior Challenge Ladder play or who quit the program during the year will be ineligible to receive Tournament Assistance benefits.

6) There are no variances or exceptions to these rules and procedures based on what was done in the prior year(s): These rules and procedures do not make allowances or exceptions for anything that may or may not have been done in past years. What is listed herein is fully comprehensive and will not be alterable based on any practices or exceptions that may have been granted in years past.

7) How VGS counts up ladder matches played for Tournament Assistance reasons including defaults and retired matches:

- a) Ladder matches which will receive one (1) full match count credit:
- i) Each completed regular challenge match played (both players receive credit).
 - ii) All ladder matches that were retired due to illness or injury (both receive credit).
 - iii) Ladder matches won by default (receiver of win gets one match count credit).
 - iv) Matches that were not reported properly by another player causing that match to be voided. Player who didn't cause the infraction gets one match count credit. The other player may or may not be allowed credit subject to review and decision by the Challenge Ladder Vice President.
 - v) Each two-hour round robin session counts as one (1) match credit.
- b) Ladder matches, which will not receive match, count credit (except as possibly ruled by joint review and decisions of the Ladder Manager and VP's).
- i) Ladder matches involving unsportsmanlike conduct or unacceptable court behavior, **may** not be granted as count credit for an individual as determined by the ladder Vice President (the other player will get a match count credit).
 - ii) Players who defaulted a match, or were ruled as having defaulted, will not receive match count credit for that match.
 - iii) Matches played but not reported, within the rules time guidelines, will be subject to review (as listed in item 9.a.iv.) above. The VP's decision ruling will determine whether or not the player who did not report properly receives or does not receive a match play count for that match.
 - iv) Any National City Qualifying Tournament matches or other outside tournaments are not included in the count. This includes any other match play with ladder members outside of the Challenge Ladder Program.
- 8) Members and parents must keep track of their own ladder match count: Ladder managers keep records of each ladder match played. These are the basis for all match count accountability. Should there be any disagreements with that, members and parents are obligated to provide their own records of matches played including date of match, player played and results (especially including notations regarding defaults and improper reporting of matches resulting in a voided match).
- 9) When players and parents should request a variance review or call to check the number of ladder matches used by VGS for Tournament Assistance reasons. Who players and parents should call to find this out: The 2015 Autumn Ladder session closes on Friday, December 4, 2015. The Junior Challenge Ladder Managers and Vice President will verify the number of matches by the last VGS workday in February. Match count checks and variance review requests are

available to members until noon on the last VGS workday in March annually. That means that members and parents have from the first VGS work day in March until the last VGS work day in March to check the match count and request variance review. That should be plenty of time for anybody to consider checking his or her match count and requesting variance. To verify VGS's final individual match count and/or to request variance review, members and/or parents are asked to contact the Vice President of the Junior Challenge Ladder Program at his/her home phone number (the VGS office will not have these records during this time). By the first VGS workday of April, the final match counts will be turned in to VGS as final/closed and will no longer be available to members or parents to request review or variance.

10) VGS's actions if it is learned that a player did not play in a tournament that was claimed as having been played: VGS will have access to tournament records and may spot check them to determine if any members missed recording any of the tournaments in which he or she played. In that type of a review, it would be probable that any inaccuracies in reporting would become apparent to VGS. Each situation would be reported to the Vice Presidents and handled separately. A joint ruling will be issued later. Parents and members have the final responsibility for proper tournament reporting to VGS.

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