**CAWA Draft Policy on Tiebreak and Playoff Procedures for WA Championship Events**

The following rules specify how ties for WA Championship titles shall be resolved.

Whenever two or more players tie for a title, a playoff must be held between at least two of the tied players. In the case that the playoff does not include all tied eligible players, the selection of qualifiers for the playoff shall be determined by tiebreak scores. The tiebreaks used will be set by the Chief Arbiter in the tournament Vega file at the start of the tournament. For Swiss tournaments, CAWA recommends that the following tiebreaks be used, in order of decreasing priority: Buchholz Cut 1, Buchholz Total, Direct Encounter, Average ACF Rating of Opponents Cut 1.

If possible, the playoff should be designed so that there will ultimately be a unique winner.

For Junior and Rapid events, the tiebreak should be played as soon as practicable following the completion of the final round of the tournament, preferably at the same event.

“Double round robin” refers to a particular tournament format in which each player plays each other player exactly 2 times, with alternating colours. In contests involving only two players, “double round robin” is taken to be a 2 game match with alternating colours.

Wherever these rules specify that an Armageddon game shall be played to determine the winner of a title, the specifics of this Armageddon game shall be as follows: (i) time control of 5 minutes for White, 4 minutes for Black, with no increment for moves 1-60, and an increment of 2 seconds per move starting from move 61; (ii) Black has draw odds: i.e. White must win the Armageddon game to win the title, whereas if Black either draws or wins, then Black wins the title; (iii) a coin flip will be used to determine the colours for the Armageddon game. The player with the superior tiebreak will call `heads’ or `tails’. If they call correctly, they shall have the choice of colour. If they call incorrectly, the opponent shall have the choice of colour.

1. **WA Champion, WA Reserves Champion, WA Seniors’ Champion, and WA Women’s Champion**

If the WA Championship is held in an Open format, these titles are awarded to the highest-scoring eligible players at the WA Open event. If the leading players in any of these four categories finish on the same score, then a playoff ensues for that particular Championship.

If the WA Championship is held in the Closed format (Closed and Reserves sections), then:

1. Title of WA Champion: the winner of the Closed Tournament is awarded the title of WA Champion. In the event of a tie, a playoff between the leading players ensues for the title of WA Champion.
2. Titles of WA Women’s Champion and WA Seniors’ Champion: Provided both the Closed Tournament and Reserves Tournament have the same number of rounds:

* if the highest scoring eligible player in the Reserves Tournament does not score more points than the highest scoring eligible player(s) in the Closed Tournament, then:
  + if there is only one leading eligible player in the Closed Tournament, then that player is awarded the title;
  + if there are two or more leading eligible players in the Closed Tournament, then these players contest a playoff for the title.
* If the highest scoring eligible player in the Reserves Tournament scores more points than the highest scoring eligible player(s) in the Closed Tournament, then a playoff will ensue for the title, consisting of the leading eligible players from the Closed Tournament and the leading eligible players from the Reserves Tournament.

1. Title of WA Reserves Champion: the winner of the Reserves Tournament is awarded the title of WA Reserves Champion. In the event of a tie, a playoff between the leading players ensues for the title of WA Reserves Champion.

The procedure for any required playoffs is as follows, with the playoff ending if any of phases i. – vi. close with a single leading participant:

1. the participants in the playoff contest a double round-robin (or a 2-game match, in the case of a 2-way tie) with the same time control as the main tournament, to determine the winner of the title.
2. Following i., if two or more players are still tied, then the tied players will contest a double round robin with time control 15 minutes plus 5 seconds increment per move.
3. Following ii., if two or more players are still tied, then the tied players will contest a double round robin with time control 5 minutes plus 2 seconds per move.
4. Following iii., if more than two players are still tied, repeat iii. until at most two players remain.
5. If the tournament, or sequence of tournaments, in iii. and iv. determines a single leading player, then that player shall be awarded the relevant title.
6. If the tournament, or sequence of tournaments, in iii. and iv. results in a tie between two players, then the two players shall contest an Armageddon game to determine the winner of the title.

Playing sessions for phases i. and ii. of the playoff will not be held on the same day.

1. **WA Allegro Champion, WA Women’s Allegro Champion, and WA Seniors’ Allegro Champion**

The WA Allegro Championship will be held as an Open event.

The title of WA Allegro Champion shall be awarded to the highest scoring player in the tournament. If two or more players should finish on the same leading score, then tournament tiebreak scores will be used to determine the top two finishers. These two players will then contest a 2 game blitz playoff (3 minutes with 2 seconds increment per move) to determine the winner of the title. If the playoff is tied 1-1, then an Armageddon game will be played to determine the winner of the title. Any necessary playoffs will be held immediately after the conclusion of the final round of the main tournament.

CAWA may, in any given year, choose to run separate tournaments for either of the titles WA Women’s Allegro Champion or WA Seniors’ Allegro Champion. Announcement of the running of such separate tournaments will be made well in advance of the open tournament constituting the WA Allegro Championship. In the running of these separate tournaments, tiebreak and playoff rules corresponding to those in the above paragraph shall be used when necessary to determine the winners of the titles of WA Women’s Allegro Champion and/or WA Seniors’ Allegro Champion.

It may be decided to award the titles of WA Women’s Allegro Champion and/or WA Seniors’ Allegro Champion to the highest-scoring eligible players in the WA Allegro Championship tournament. In this format, the eligible players in the relevant category will be pooled in the final standings, and the relevant title will be subject to the same tiebreak and playoff rules as the title of WA Allegro Champion.

1. **WA Blitz Champion, WA Women’s Blitz Champion, and WA Seniors’ Blitz Champion**

The titles of WA Blitz Champion, WA Women’s Blitz Champion and WA Seniors’ Blitz Champion are awarded subject to the same rules as the corresponding categories of the WA Allegro Championships: see 2.

1. **WA Junior and Girls’ Champions (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18)**

Each division of the WA Junior and Girls’ Championships is played in an Open format. There are 12 titles on offer, with each title awarded to the highest-scoring eligible players in the respective division. If the leading players in any of these 12 categories finish on the same score, then a playoff ensues for that particular Championship.

The procedure for any required playoffs is as follows, with the playoff ending if any of phases i. – vi. close with a single leading participant. Time permitting, the playoff can be played on the day of the final round of the tournament being contested. Otherwise, it should be played within 24 hours of the completion of the final round.

1. The participants in the playoff contest a double round-robin, with time control 15 minutes plus 2 seconds increment per move.
2. Following i., if two or more players are still tied, then the tied players will contest a double round robin with time control 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move.
3. Following ii., if more than two players are still tied, repeat ii. until at most two players remain.
4. If the tournament, or sequence of tournaments, in ii. and iii. determines a single leading player, then that player shall be awarded the relevant title.
5. If the tournament, or sequence of tournaments, in ii. and iii. results in a tie between two players, then the two players shall contest an Armageddon game to determine the winner of the title.
6. **WA Junior and Girls’ Rapid Champions (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18)**

The WA Junior and Girls’ Rapid Championships will be held as one or more Swiss tournaments, with each tournament offering a selection of age-group titles (Open and Girls).

In each age and gender category: If two or more players should finish on the same leading score, then tournament tiebreak scores will be used to determine the top two finishers. These two players will then contest a 2 game blitz playoff (3 minutes with 2 seconds increment per move) to determine the winner of the title. If the playoff is tied 1-1, then an Armageddon game will be played to determine the winner of the title. Any necessary playoffs will be held immediately after the conclusion of the final round of the main tournament.

1. **WA Junior and Girls’ Allegro Champions (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18)**

The WA Junior and Girls’ Allegro Championships will be held as one or more Swiss tournaments, with each tournament offering a selection of age-group titles (Open and Girls).

In each age and gender category: If two or more players should finish on the same leading score, then tournament tiebreak scores will be used to determine the top two finishers. These two players will then contest a 2 game blitz playoff (3 minutes with 2 seconds increment per move) to determine the winner of the title. If the playoff is tied 1-1, then an Armageddon game will be played to determine the winner of the title. Any necessary playoffs will be held immediately after the conclusion of the final round of the main tournament.

1. **WA Junior and Girls’ Blitz Champions (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18)**

The WA Junior and Girls’ Blitz Championships will be held as one or more Swiss tournaments, with each tournament offering a selection of age-group titles (Open and Girls).

In each age and gender category: If two or more players should finish on the same leading score, then tournament tiebreak scores will be used to determine the top two finishers. These two players will then contest a 2 game blitz playoff (3 minutes with 2 seconds increment per move) to determine the winner of the title. If the playoff is tied 1-1, then an Armageddon game will be played to determine the winner of the title. Any necessary playoffs will be held immediately after the conclusion of the final round of the main tournament.