

American Darts Organization

Playoff Program

Each year, the ADO conducts a series of four rounds of Singles Competitions (Open & Women's) to determine US Champions and US Representatives for World darts competition as well as 501 singles and Cricket singles US champions.

These are the: World Masters National Finals, the US Team National Finals, the 501 Singles Championships, and the Cricket Singles Championships. Within each round, there are local, or Association, pre-Qualifiers followed by National Qualifiers to advance players to these Finals.

Benefits:

The ADO Playoff Program benefits your members, your association and your local pub owners, alike. These benefits can include:

- Visibility for your association outside the local area, which may result in increased attendance for your ADO Sanctioned Tournament events.
- Additional revenue to cover entry/travel costs for your players to participate at a higher level.
- Provides added business opportunities for your local pub owners.
- Your Local Members can gain additional tournament experience, more recognition for their darting skills, free travel to out-of-town events and tournaments, and the opportunity to represent the USA.

Goals and Purpose:

- To provide every ADO member the opportunity to play Darts at the Association, Regional, National and World levels.
- To determine 501 and Cricket singles U.S. Champions and U.S. Representatives for National and World darts competition.
- To fund travel, hotel, uniforms, and affiliated administrative expenses for ADO Player/Team Representatives in National and World darts events.

ADO Championship Points System

The Top 16 finishers in a National Qualifier earn ADO Championship Points in accordance with the following table, based upon the total number of participants. All Players tied for position in the Top 16 receive the full amount of ADO Championship Points for the position.

Place	Points
Winners / Qualifiers	75
1st Non-Qualifier	60
2nd Non-Qualifier	50
3rd Non-Qualifier	40
Rest of Field	30

Association Pre-Qualifier

Every ADO affiliated association is entitled and encouraged to hold pre-qualifiers to advance players to, and raise the \$75 player entry for, the National Qualifiers for each round.

- Decisions regarding number of pre-qualifying events held, schedule, entry fee, and format are left to the discretion of the Association.
- Some forms of these qualifiers may be round robin events, singles leagues, blind draws, raffles. This is not an all-inclusive list; Associations can advance as many players, per \$75 raised, as they wish.

National Qualifiers

- The Regional Director will determine the date, time, and location, and will be responsible for the on-site direction of the National Qualifier, as well as submitting results immediately after play.
- The entry fee for a National Qualifier is \$75 per player, whether paid by Association or individual player, and is due at time of registration before the start of play.
 - o Area Managers may establish a deadline in advance of this for particular Areas and are empowered to refund entry fees only under special circumstances.
- A National Qualifier requires a minimum of 3 eligible players AND \$750, as one player per \$750 (10 total players) advances to the National Finals.

Should a Qualifier have at least 3 players but less than \$750, the Regional Director may elect to do one of the following:

- (a) Float money between the Open and Women's playoff.
 - (b) Allow the players (or outside sponsor) to contribute the funds necessary to reach the \$750 requirement.
 - (c) The winner takes a free entry to the National Finals, but no travel is covered.
- The format will be Round Robin 501 SS/DO (or Cricket for that event), 3 legs, 1 point per leg.
 - o The number of initial round-robins to play will be based on the number of boards and number of players. All initial groupings will be made by blind-draw.
 - o Wherever possible, the National Qualifier will be run via DartConnect DigitalSteel.
 - The Top 16 finishers in the National Qualifier earn ADO Championship Points in accordance with the 'ADO Championship Points System' above, based upon the total number of participants.
 - o All Players tied for position in the Top 16 receive the full amount of ADO Championship Points for the position.
 - Winners of the National Qualifier, (one for each \$750 collected), advance to the National Finals, their travel expenses paid (plane ticket or mileage, minimum of \$150) by the ADO.
 - o Should a player win both 501 Championship and Cricket Championship National Qualifiers, advancing to both National Championship Finals that take place in the same event, they will receive \$200, in addition to the one travel stipend.
 - The first alternate, that is the first non-winner, is invited to enter the National Finals at a cost of \$50, with no travel stipend.
 - If a winner of a National Qualifier cannot go to the National Finals, the first alternate will be invited to substitute, with travel stipend, PROVIDED there is a minimum of 21 days before the National Finals. If a winner of a National Qualifier withdraws with less than 21 days before the National Finals, the first alternate will be invited to substitute.
 - o The alternate's travel expense stipend will be equal to no more than what would have been expended for the original advancer. The alternate may substitute only if he/she pays the additional cost.

National Qualifier Awards Summary

The following summarizes the qualification awards available through the National Qualifier structure:

Qualification	Award
1 player per \$750 collected in a National Qualifier	Round trip flight and entry into the corresponding National.

Qualification	Award
Winner of National Qualifier with less than \$750	Free entry (no flight) to the corresponding National. (Player also has the option to top up to \$750 to get flight included.)
1 Alternate per qualified player in National Qualifier	Discounted (\$50) entry into the corresponding National.
Person running a National Qualifier (that fully qualifies a player with \$750)	Free entry (no flight) to the corresponding National.

National Finals

- Participants will have either advanced to the National Finals through the preceding National Qualifier, received an invitation from the ADO for winning the previous year's corresponding Final, or will have "bought-in" to the National Finals, at a cost of \$200, (with no travel expense reimbursement).
 - National Ambassadors (the ADO National Team) will automatically qualify to play in the 501 Championship National Finals.
- All entry fees must be received by the published cut-off date.
- All ADO National Finals will be smoke and tobacco products free.
- The dress code for the National Finals: black dress slacks (no jeans), collared shirt or a blouse, and dark colored closed-toe shoes (no tennis shoes). No hats, caps, or headgear of any kind are allowed.
- The format for the National Finals of the Masters (final result, top 4 Open, top 2 Women) and the ADO US TEAM (final result top 2 Open, top 2 Women) will be as follows:
 - Preliminary: Round-robin, 3 legs, 1 point/leg
 - Finals: Round-robin, 3 legs, 1 point/leg
- The format for the National Finals of the 501 National Championship and the Cricket National Championship will be as follows:
 - Preliminary: Round-robin, 3 legs, 1 point/leg
 - Finals: Top 16 Open and top 8 Women fill an unseeded knock-out bracket, best-of-five or more.
 - The top 16 Open and top 8 Women will receive cash awards, amount depending on participation.
- The National Finals award points as in a standard ADO-sanctioned tournament, based on a \$10,000 (Open) / \$5,000 (Women) total payout.

General Playoff Rules

- All playoff events are played under the exclusive supervision of the ADO, and will be played in accordance with the established 'ADO tournament rules' on the official Winmau dartboard, unless otherwise approved.
- To participate, a player must be a member in good standing with the ADO or one of its affiliated associations.
- Players who reside, or associations with their headquarters located, within 50 miles of an ADO regional boundary may choose, by ADO league affiliation or by ADO Individual membership, which ADO region they represent. This will be considered their 'home' region for ADO Points earned in ADO Sanctioned tournaments, including National Qualifiers. This decision is in effect for the entire calendar year, and must be approved by the ADO General Secretary.
 - Foreign players must be able to prove they have been continuously domiciled in the U.S. for a period of 6 months plus 1 day (e.g.: green card/passport valid for more than six months, etc.) in order to participate in National Qualifiers. Additionally, for competitions that lead to international representation, foreign players must be registered with the ADO Office and must have been continuously domiciled in the U.S. for a minimum of three years without representing another country.
- Per ADO Tournament Rule #12, should a player fail to report to the assigned board within the 15 minute allotted time, a Forfeit will be called.

- o For National Finals, any players who have not shown to play after the initial call, will receive a first and second call only. The player will then start forfeiting the match, one leg for every five minutes after the second call. This does not include special circumstances known and approved by the event director.
- Failure to complete any portion of an ADO National Qualifier or ADO National Final will result in disciplinary action, the minimum of which will be suspension from the Playoff Programs, suspension from earning any ADO points from tournament play, and suspension of any WDF-ranked singles for a period of one year (from the date of infraction).
 - o Should a player fail to complete an ADO National Qualifier, or a National Finals event, all matches involving said player will be considered null and void.
- Disciplinary action may be taken if a National Finals advancer fails to represent the ADO in their respective international competition with proper respect and attitude.
- All tie-breakers in Regional and National competitions will be decided by a one-leg round robin.

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