

Suggested new system for the European Championship

Introduction

For the European Go Congress in Groningen in 2009, the organisation would like to use a different system of determining the European champion than that used up until now. We request that the General Meeting of the EGF grant permission to introduce the following system in 2009.

Basic overview of the system

Instead of determining the European Champion through the McMahon system used until now, we suggest using a combination of a McMahon based qualifying tournament and a 5 round knockout tournament. After the first 5 rounds of the McMahon tournament, the best 32 European players will play a 5 round knockout tournament to determine the European champion. Players knocked out in this tournament will rejoin the McMahon tournament. This system offers the advantages over the old system that it is mostly free of interference by the participation of large number of strong Asian players and that it provides much better promotional opportunities centered around the final and semi-finals.

The McMahon Tournament

All participants of the European go congress will play in the usual 10 round McMahon tournament. Players can choose to play only the first or second week as they wish, but players that want to be eligible to qualify for the knockout tournament must play all 5 rounds in the first week. The best 32 European players after the first week will play a knockout system in the second week

The Knock-Out Tournament

The knockout tournament is played by the best 32 european players of the first 5 rounds of the McMahon tournament. These players are drawn into a knockout schedule based on their performance in the first week.

Suggested draw system

The best 32 (available) European players are selected, based on McMahon score and SOS score. These are eligible for the draw. This draw is performed as follows:

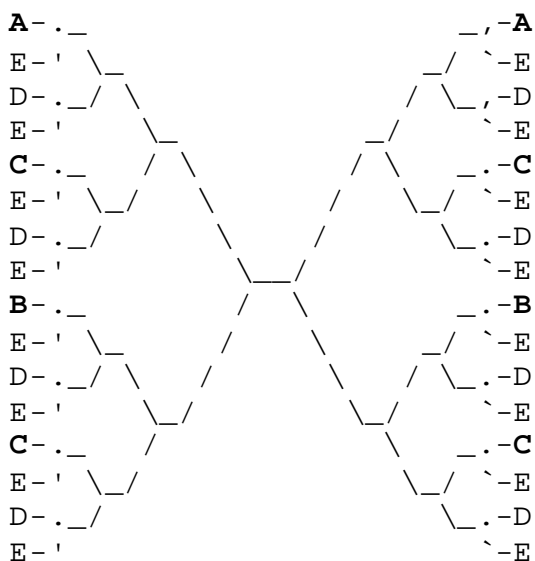
There are 5 target groups and one draw group. The target groups are named A through E. They will contain the following number of players after the draw:

- Group A - 2 players
- Group B - 2 players
- Group C - 4 players
- Group D - 8 players
- Group E - 16 players

After the draw, group A should contain the strongest, and group E the weakest players.

The draw is performed as follows:

1. Let X be the McMahon score of the highest ranked European player in the MacMahon tournament.
2. All players with McMahon score X are placed into the draw group.
3. Start with group A as the target group
3. Draw players one by one from the draw group into the target group, keeping the following two conditions in mind:
4. If there are no players in the draw group, lower X by 1 and put all players with McMahon score X into the draw group
5. If there are no places left in the target group, move to the next target group (in the order A-E)
6. After all target groups are filled, players from these groups are drawn at random into the following knockout schedule:



This schedule guarantees that the players in group A will not meet each other until the final, nor will they meet players from group B until the semi final. Players from groups A and B will not meet players from group C until the quarter final, and players from groups A, B and C will not meet players from group D in the first round. This increases the probability of getting the strongest players into the quarterfinals, semifinals and final.