

## HEARTHSTONE COMPETITIVE BRACKET GUIDE

Thank you for coming tonight to our casual social gathering for all Hearthstone players, new or experienced, in the Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge-Guelph area. Blizzard calls their Hearthstone game “Deceptively Simple. Insanely Fun.” and we hope you will agree, especially when facing a worthy opponent head-to-head. Once you have established WiFi connectivity with your Hearthstone-compatible device (PC, Mac, phone, or tablet), seek out the competitive bracket area near the whiteboard.

Upon arrival, each person chooses a wearable nametag that has a number of lit up mana crystals which represents their experience level. More lit up mana crystals indicates more experience. Write your name or BattleTag into an available slot in a bracket starting position on the whiteboard. It is recommended to try to have your first matchup with against someone with similar experience as you, so go introduce yourself!

To help ensure a winner by the end of the night, and to keep the playing field fairly level, each deck will be limited to 2 legendary cards, and match wins will be the best 2 out of 3 games to move to the next match with a new opponent. Also, to lessen the chance of a single powerful deck creating an unfair advantage, after any player wins a game, they must switch to a different hero for their next game against the same opponent. When you face a new opponent, you can re-use previous heroes again (if desired) or give your other heroes a chance to battle.

If there is a large turnout for the competitive bracket, then the defeated players can join into a second “consolation” bracket and the winner of this bracket will then face the winner of the primary bracket in an ultimate showdown with this final match win the best 3 out of 5 if there is enough time left in the evening, otherwise best 2 out of 3. Using a second bracket gives defeated players another chance rather than waiting a long time for the primary bracket to finish before starting a fresh primary bracket (time permitting).

We need to use the first Fireside Gathering as a trial to see what competitive bracket play system works best. At subsequent gatherings a prize will be awarded to the bracket final winner, who will be able to pick from some official Blizzard Hearthstone merchandise we have purchased. In the future we will likely add Hearthstone t-shirts and other items. Prize choices are currently a \$10-\$15 value: a Hearthstone lint cloth, or **one** glass from the Hearthstone Pint Glass collection (see photo below). As the gatherings grow in size, or if people want to pay an entry fee for the competition, we can offer larger prizes.



Pint Glass Choices:

Ragnaros the Firelord  
Nat Pagle  
Leeroy Jenkins  
Nozdormu

Please note this venue is not an official Blizzard Tournament as those are much more involved to organize, but could be a possibility down the road. We are looking for feedback on how best to organize this competitive group, so it is certainly open to discussion/revision for future Firesides, as the goal is to ensure the majority of participants are in agreement and that things are run in a fair and reasonable manner.

Remember to come to our next event and bring your friends to continue the fun!