

## **RULES CHANGE 10-DAY NOTICE**

**Re: Mingles Tournaments**

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December 15, 2023  
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### **WHAT THESE CHANGES DO:**

- A. Adds to the FSA rules a definition of Mingles for games and tournaments.
- B. Awards one-half Move-Up Point to Amateurs that place in the top four spots of a District (“D”) tournament that includes Mingles.
- C. Limits the number of Mingles games that players can be required to play in a single day in a tournament.
- D. To accommodate the slower pace of points earnings from Mingles tournaments (one-half point for top four spots): Adds advancement of District Amateur to State Amateur for earning 10 Move-Up points in 10 years; and adds advancement of State Amateur to Pro for earning 20 Move-Up points in 10 years (including any Move-Up points earned while a District Amateur).

### **REASONS FOR THESE CHANGES:**

The FSA has a long and proud tradition of defining and implementing the rules and regulations for competitive shuffleboard tournaments. In the early decades following the establishment of the first shuffleboard club in St. Petersburg in 1924, the popularity of the game among Florida vacationers and retirees drove the development of the standardized rules and regulations, which has carried forward through nearly a century of competition in the sport.

However, today there is a significant ongoing shift in the demographics of players. While the majority of participants in FSA tournaments continues to be of retirement age, there is a new generation of younger shuffleboard players who are of working age and therefore not able to participate in FSA weekday tournaments. In the same way that the population of Florida has shifted in recent decades to a larger proportion of younger working-age residents, so is the proportion of the new and novice shuffleboard player shifting to this demographic.

There are a few players from this younger generation who, once bitten by the competitive shuffleboard bug, find a way to participate in the FSA weekday tournament on a rare occasion. But most are only able to play in evening leagues and weekend games offered by their local clubs since they work weekdays. This leaves a large gap between participation in the club games and entering official FSA tournaments. The FSA and its Districts need to create a bridge for these younger novices that spans that gap, giving these players the opportunity to compete in official tournaments while still of working age, and eventually leading them to be the future generation of seasoned Pro players in the decades to come.

To judge the interest among players for FSA Mingles tournaments, I conducted an informal poll in two Facebook shuffleboard groups. The poll results listed below are after one week. I believe that the polls show enough interest in the Mingles tournaments to justify the rules changes as well as to encourage Districts to include some multi-evening and/or weekend Mingles tournaments to their District schedules.

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(Please note that there is no way to know how many players actually saw the poll but did not respond. Many of the members of each Facebook group may not have seen the poll as it may not have shown up in their Facebook feed nor appeared in their Facebook notices.)

### Poll Question

“Who would be interested in playing in an occasional two-night weekday or a one-day weekend FSA tournament which awarded some "Move-Up Points"?”

Poll Answers: (Respondents could check more than one answer.)

- Yes, I would play it if on a couple weeknights.
  - Yes, I would play it if on a Saturday.
  - Yes, I would play it if on a Sunday.
  - No, that wouldn't interest me.
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### Facebook Group: St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club League Players

65 unique players voted

136 total votes

Total Interest: 60 out of 65 players said they would play. (92%)

Yes, I would play it if on a couple weeknights.: 38% · 51 Votes

Yes, I would play it if on a Saturday.: 28% · 39 Votes

Yes, I would play it if on a Sunday.: 31% · 41 Votes

No, that wouldn't interest me.: 3% · 5 Votes

### Comments Posted by Players:

*I think this is a great idea to help promote the sport and bring in more participants from those of us who can't take off work during the week! B.Q.*

*Weekday tourneys are the subject of much grumbling among those who would like to participate, but also have to work during the week. These are good options. C.G.*

*Yes, great idea for the working person! R.W.*

*Excellent suggestions, thanks for putting your time and energy into this. M.L.*

*The recent 10/30-11/1 daytime tournament in St Pete effectively ruled out anyone who works for a living. R.C.*

*Tournaments on nights and weekends will always have my support. M.A.*

*Keep trying Martin. We want to play in more tournaments. T.M.*

*This is a must. If we are going to encourage younger players to sharpen their skills, they need tournament opportunities that don't interfere with work schedules. D.S.*

*+1 good for working folks! N.M.*

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Facebook Group: Florida Shufflers

22 unique players voted

35 total votes

Total Interest: 13 out of 22 players said they would play. (59%)

Yes, I would play it if on a couple weeknights.: 32% · 11 Votes

Yes, I would play it if on a Saturday.: 28% · 10 Votes

Yes, I would play it if on a Sunday.: 15% · 5 Votes

No, that wouldn't interest me.: 25% · 9 Votes

Comments Posted by Players:

*Do anything that will bring younger people into the sport and bring it into the Olympics. W.B.*

*It's great you're putting this out there Martin!!! If shuffle board is to be saved as we know it then let's try something out of the box!!!! J.H.*

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The FSA, to remain relevant and avoid shrinkage over time in tournament entries, must embrace the needs of the younger generation of players. The FSA should be a leader for the future expansion of shuffleboard by bringing innovations to our sport that lead to participation among a wider audience.

To that end, I propose a series of amendments below to the FSA rules and regulations which will allow FSA Districts to offer a class of official FSA tournaments that can be easily conducted and concluded on weeknights, a one-day weekend, or a two-day weekend. While this class of tournaments, usually of shorter duration and less skillful than current FSA tournament format, should not carry the same weight in the FSA Amateur Move-Up Points system as the traditional weekday tournaments, the Districts should be able to award some points to participants in order to involve these new tournament players in the status advancements and points races that are part of the essence of the FSA. Any District can, of course, currently run such tournaments as part of their Area tournament schedule, but these amendments are necessary to allow the Districts to include such tournaments in their line-up of "D" tournaments that award Move-Up Points to Amateurs.

These amendments together will create a new class of Mingles tournaments which can be included in District schedules, including tournaments such as (given here as possible examples):

- A multi-evening Mingles tournament.
- A one-day weekend Mingles tournament.
- A multi-evening tournament, Mingles competition at first, then semi-finals and finals brackets on the final evening(s).
- A tournament that starts with evening Mingles, followed by a weekend day of brackets competition.
- A two-day weekend tournament, Mingles on the first day, semi-finals and finals brackets on the second day.

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The amendments are written to give flexibility to the Districts to devise their own Mingles tournament formats, such as these examples, that fit the needs and preferences of their players and staff. There are no restrictions included in the amendments that the Mingles tournaments must be for Amateurs only. They can be Amateur Only, No Two Pros, Pros Only, or District Open tournaments, however only Amateur Move-Up Points will be awarded. The amendments do not add Mingles tournaments to the pro Roll of Champions Point System, nor do they make any changes to Statewide tournaments or the traditional District weekday tournaments.

To accommodate the slower pace of earning Move-Up Points for the working-age players, I have included amendments that add status advancements based on accumulation of points over a 10-year period. This will keep these players interested and participating in the points tournaments, which also may encourage them to enter the occasional weekday tournament.

While these amendments to the Rules and Regulations are proposed here as a complete series, they are offered as four separate proposals (A thru D below) to allow for severing one or more from the others should the FSA Board wish to only implement some and not all.

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### A. AMENDMENT DEFINING MINGLES GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS

**Be it resolved that the STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICIAL SHUFFLEBOARD RULES & REGULATIONS as found on Pages 126 to 131 of the 2023-2024 preview are amended by adding the following section to the end:**

#### **J – Mingles**

- 1. Notwithstanding the aforementioned rules, a District Tournament or one or more portions of a District Tournament may be played as Mingles, wherein Mingles consists of three or more matches; each match consists of one game; the court and color for each player or team is assigned by random draw each match; and every player entered in the Mingles plays each match unless he/she has drawn a bye.**
- 2. Play shall be limited to a specific number of frames, such as 8-12-16 or 20.**
- 3. Tie games shall be broken by a lag or additional play.**
- 4. At the end of each match, each winning player or team records their final game score or the difference in the winning and losing game scores, to be accumulated for a Tournament Total score for each player or team. The amount recorded for a match may be capped. The final game score may exclude points earned from additional play to break a tie.**
- 5. A bye shall count as a match win and shall be awarded a match score to be recorded.**
- 6. The ranking of players or teams at the end of the Mingles shall be determined first by the total number of matches won and then within each tier by the Tournament Total scores.**

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**7. Ties in Tournament Total scores within a tier shall be broken by head-to-head comparison, a lag and/or additional play.**

**8. The ranking of players or teams at the end of the Mingles shall determine the elimination of players or teams, the placement of players or teams in divisions for a remaining portion of the tournament, and/or the winners of the tournament.**

**B. TWO AMENDMENTS TO AWARD LIMITED AMATEUR MOVE-UP POINTS IN DISTRICT MINGLES TOURNAMENTS**

**1. Be it resolved that Article 9, Section (a), second paragraph of the STATE AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS as found on Page 135 of the 2023-2024 preview is amended, by adding a new sentence after the third sentence:**

Current Wording:

**2. A District Amateur shall be advanced to State Amateur, effective the following October 1st, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less (October 1 through September 30). Counting shall be as follows: a first, second, third or fourth place win in the Main Event in a District Tournament (including a No Two Pros Tournament) or a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation of a District Tournament, a State Amateur or Open Centerfold Tournament, shall count as one-half (1/2) point. Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)**

To Read as Amended:

**2. A District Amateur shall be advanced to State Amateur, effective the following October 1st, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less (October 1 through September 30). Counting shall be as follows: a first, second, third or fourth place win in the Main Event in a District Tournament (including a No Two Pros Tournament) or a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation of a District Tournament, a State Amateur or Open Centerfold Tournament, shall count as one-half (1/2) point. **In a District Tournament which includes Mingles, a first, second, third or fourth place win in the Main Event only shall count, as one-half (1/2) point.** Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)**

**2. Be it resolved that Article 9, Section (b), second paragraph of the STATE AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS as found on Page 135 of the 2023-2024 preview is amended, by adding a new sentence after the third sentence:**

Current Wording:

**2. A State Amateur shall be advanced to Pro effective the following October 1, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less. Counting shall be as follows: A first, second, third or fourth place in the Main Event of a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament or a District Tournament where State Amateurs are eligible to play (including a No Two Pros Tournament), shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in**

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Consolation (of these same tournaments or a Pro Centerfold Tournament) shall count as one-half (1/2) point. Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Anyone coming to Florida from another State or Country where they are designated as an Expert, Master or Pro shuffleboard player will be ranked as a State Amateur in Florida. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)

To Read as Amended:

**2. A State Amateur shall be advanced to Pro effective the following October 1, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less. Counting shall be as follows: A first, second, third or fourth place in the Main Event of a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament or a District Tournament where State Amateurs are eligible to play (including a No Two Pros Tournament), shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation (of these same tournaments or a Pro Centerfold Tournament) shall count as one-half (1/2) point. In a District Tournament which includes Mingles, a first, second, third or fourth place win in the Main Event only shall count, as one-half (1/2) point.** Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Anyone coming to Florida from another State or Country where they are designated as an Expert, Master or Pro shuffleboard player will be ranked as a State Amateur in Florida. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)

### C. AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT EXCESSIVE MINGLES MATCHES IN A DAY

**Be it resolved that Article 7, Section (b), second paragraph of the STATE AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS as found on Page 134 of the 2023-2024 preview is amended, by adding a new subparagraph (f):**

Current Wording:

**2. A player will not be required to play more than:**  
(a) three (3) two-out-of-three 75-Point matches,  
(b) one (1) two-out-of-three 75-Point matches, and three (3) 100-Point matches,  
(c) two (2) two-out-of-three 75-Point matches, and two (2) 100-Point matches,  
(d) four (4) 100-Point matches or  
(e) three (3) two-out-of-three 12 frame matches in the same day.

To Read as Amended:

**2. A player will not be required to play more than:**  
(a) three (3) two-out-of-three 75-Point matches,  
(b) one (1) two-out-of-three 75-Point matches, and three (3) 100-Point matches,  
(c) two (2) two-out-of-three 75-Point matches, and two (2) 100-Point matches,  
(d) four (4) 100-Point matches,  
(e) three (3) two-out-of-three 12 frame matches **or**  
(f) **eight (8) Mingles matches in the same day.**

D. TWO AMENDMENTS TO ADD AMATEUR MOVE-UP IN STATUS BASED ON 10-YEAR POINTS ACCUMULATION

**1. Be it resolved that Article 9, Section (a), second paragraph, first sentence of the STATE AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS as found on Page 135 of the 2023-2024 preview is amended, by adding a new phrase to the end:**

Current Wording:

**2. A District Amateur shall be advanced to State Amateur, effective the following October 1st, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less (October 1 through September 30). Counting shall be as follows: a first, second, third or fourth place win in the Main Event in a District Tournament (including a No Two Pros Tournament) or a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation of a District Tournament, a State Amateur or Open Centerfold Tournament, shall count as one-half (1/2) point. Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)**

To Read as Amended:

**2. A District Amateur shall be advanced to State Amateur, effective the following October 1st, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less (October 1 through September 30) or a total of ten (10) points in ten (10) consecutive years or less. Counting shall be as follows: a first, second, third or fourth place win in the Main Event in a District Tournament (including a No Two Pros Tournament) or a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation of a District Tournament, a State Amateur or Open Centerfold Tournament, shall count as one-half (1/2) point. Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)**

**2. Be it resolved that Article 9, Section (b), second paragraph of the STATE AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS as found on Page 135 of the 2023-2024 preview is amended, by adding a new sentence after the first sentence:**

Current wording:

**2. A State Amateur shall be advanced to Pro effective the following October 1, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less. Counting shall be as follows: A first, second, third or fourth place in the Main Event of a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament or a District Tournament where State Amateurs are eligible to play (including a No Two Pros Tournament), shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation (of these same tournaments or a Pro Centerfold Tournament) shall count as one-half (1/2) point. Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Anyone coming to Florida from another State or Country where they are designated as an Expert, Master or Pro shuffleboard player will be ranked as a State Amateur in Florida. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)**

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To Read as Amended:

**2. A State Amateur shall be advanced to Pro effective the following October 1, when he/she accumulates a total of five (5) points in three (3) consecutive years or less. A State Amateur shall be advanced to Pro effective the following October 1, when he/she accumulates a total of twenty (20) points in ten (10) consecutive years or less, to include points accumulated both as a District Amateur and as a State Amateur. Counting shall be as follows: A first, second, third or fourth place in the Main Event of a State Amateur Centerfold Tournament or a District Tournament where State Amateurs are eligible to play (including a No Two Pros Tournament), shall count as one (1) point. A first, second or third place win in Consolation (of these same tournaments or a Pro Centerfold Tournament) shall count as one-half (1/2) point. Also refer to paragraph (e) for exception. Anyone coming to Florida from another State or Country where they are designated as an Expert, Master or Pro shuffleboard player will be ranked as a State Amateur in Florida. Regardless of the foregoing provisions, no points or fraction thereof shall be awarded to any player who fails to win at least one match during the tournament. (March 2016)**