

RULES FOR GOLDEN AGE "HEARTS" COMPETITION

1. Play will be separated into a men's and female divisions. Each participant is an individual competitor in their respective division.
2. The rules of the game of Hearts as listed by Hoyle will apply to game play.
3. The format of the competition will be as follows:
 - a). At check-in, each player will draw a number for their table assignment.
 - b). Four players per table. Should the numbers not be equal to a full table, Parks staff will play as a "dummy" participant until elimination of players renders them unnecessary.
4. Each round of play shall consist of eight hands; two rounds of deals for each player. Each table will be assigned two decks of cards. The player to the dealer's left will keep the non-playing deck shuffled to speed play. Low card drawn will designate the dealer of the first hand.
5. At the end of eight hands of play, the participant with the most points at each table will be eliminated from the competition. The following exception may apply: in case players are needed to form a full table for the next round, player or players (up to three), with the lowest number of points shall remain in the competition. This exception will be utilized as needed in future rounds.
6. After the third round of play, and in all subsequent rounds, players at each table with the two highest scores after eight hands played are eliminated.
7. An example of the elimination of players by round is given below:

<u>Round/Time</u> <u>Elapsed</u>	<u>No. of players</u>	<u>No. Players Eliminated</u>	<u>No. to Advance</u>
1	64	16	48
2 (0:30)	48	12	36
3 (1:00)	36	9	27 (plus lowest)
4 (1:30)	28	14	14 (plus 2 lowest)
5 (2:00)	16	8	8
6 (2:30)	8	4	4
7 (3:00)	4		Finals

8. After the first round, players will be matched up by reporting to the registration desk and being assigned a new table. The tournament manager will complete a full table by assigning the first four players to present as advancing participants. Participants may only play the next round with not more than one player they competed against in the immediate, previous round. This insures players will compete against the widest cross-section of players possible.
9. The overall champion will be determined by the lowest score over the eight hands played during the final round. Second and third places are determined by the next two lowest scores. In case of tie in any of the medal positions, the tie-breaker shall be the lowest overall score of all rounds played.
10. Rounds are estimated to take no more than 25 minutes. If a table fails to complete their eight hands within this time frame, at the option of the tournament manager, the round may be called at the completion of the hand being played if it is less than the eighth hand. The objective is to complete the tournament in no more than 3 hours.