January 2026
Beginner Tak Tournament
Information Sheet

Welcome to the Beginner Tournament, an entry-level tournament for Tak organized by the US Tak Association (ustak.org)

Registration begins January 16th 2026 and ends January 23st 2026

Tournament begins January 26th 2026 and lasts 6 weeks on average

- You do NOT need to be a member of the US Tak Association to participate.
- You do NOT need to be a resident of the US to participate.
- Registration is 100% FREE! Sign Up Here

All new players get an opportunity to compete in these Beginner tournaments. However, once you receive a merit-based prize from one of these, you graduate out of this category, but you are then more than welcome to compete in the higher-level tournaments as well as any "Opens" that the USTA offers.

Games will be scheduled through the Tak Talk Discord in the #tournaments channel. Your matches and running points accumulation will be pinned there as well.

Games will be played on https://www.playtak.com. If you have never played Tak at all or never played on that site, please familiarize yourself with it before your first match. A quick primer for the game can be found in this 2 minute How To Play Video. Reach out via the Discord if you need any help with anything.

Tournament Structure:

The tournament starts with Round Robin groups, meaning you will play 1 match (2 games) against each other person in your group in an effort to accumulate points. There are 4 total points available in each match: 2 for each game win, 1 for a draw, and 0 for a loss. The player in each group with the most points after the Round Robin stage will move on to a single elimination finals bracket.

Merit Prizes

1st Place - First pick of the following:
- [Wolf and Hawk metal capstones](#) from Worldbuilder's Market
- Beginner Travel Tak Set

2nd Place - Remaining prize from above

Participation Prizes

Just for completing all your matches, you will be entered into a drawing for participation prizes:
- High-level game review (2 available) - a high-level player will evaluate your game and provide constructive feedback. [Example](#)
- Paperback version of [Mastering Tak: Level I](#) (2 available)

Rules

[Standard Rules](#) are used except where modified below:
- Games are to be played on playtak.com using the "Beginner Tournament" preset dropdown option.
  - This will populate the time controls as well as any other parameters, including komi.
    - Komi is a value added to the second player's (Black's) flat count score in the event that a game ends via board fill or material exhaustion (i.e. Does not end in a road).
      - Komi is used to offset first player advantage and the current value is +2 to Black.
  - The only parameter you will need to enter yourself is your opponent for the game.
- Each match consists of 2 games, where the players alternate starting colors. The colors of the first game of a match should be randomized.
- Please coordinate your matches on Discord in the #tournaments channel.
  - Threads will be created to help organize Round Robin groups.
- To keep to schedule, players must complete 2 matches per week unless directed otherwise by the Tournament Director.
- Tiebreaks for Round Robin stage will go in the following order:
  - Head-to-head results
  - If there remains a tie after this, 2-game Blitz matches of 3 +5 time controls on size 6 board, with alternating starting colors will be played until a winner is decided.
- Tiebreaks for the Single Elimination stage will be Blitz matches as outlined above until a winner is decided.
- USTA [Tournament Default Policies](#) apply.