



FF-TCG Floor rules ver.1.2

2018

These rules will be used for Final Fantasy Trading Card Game (FF-TCG) in-store tournaments and official tournaments.

1. Basic tournament rules

1-1. Tournament types

FF-TCG tournaments can be broadly divided into the following two categories:

In-store tournaments

These are tournaments held in card game shops and other retailers, and the objective is usually to promote interaction and socializing between players. The hosts of these events are card game shops that have received authorization from Hobby Japan, Square Enix and partners etc.

Official tournaments

These are large scale officially run tournaments.

1-2. Entry criteria

As a general rule, anyone can participate in a tournament. However, some tournaments such as the world championships and Masters Final can only be entered by players who fulfil the set entry criteria. In addition, players who have been banned from participating in tournaments by the organizer will not be permitted to enter.

1-3. Grades

The following grades of tournament exist to delineate the level of competition at an event.

Grade 1

This grade is applied to in-store tournaments and the sub-events for official tournaments. As the main objective of these events is for players to have fun and interact with each other, it is envisaged

that many different types of player will participate in them. There is a need to deal harshly with cheating and unsportsmanlike behavior, but severe penalties need not be levied against unintentional mistakes or rule misinterpretations.

Grade 2

This grade is applied to regional qualifier tournaments and Masters events. Players will be assumed to have a reasonable level of familiarity with the general game rules and floor rules. Penalties will be invoked in order to maintain fairness between players but unintentional errors will not be punished.

Grade 3

This grade is applied to events such as national championships, continental championships and the world championship, where the prestige and rewards given to winners are of a higher level than grade 2 events and the level of competition is higher. Players are expected to have a thorough understanding of the general game rules and floor rules and judge's decisions will be stricter than in lower grade events.

2. Detailed tournament regulations

2-1. Required number of players.

A tournament is deemed to be possible as long as there is even a single player participating. If there is only one player then that person will automatically be given the rights of the tournament victor.

2-2. Tournament structure

The basic rule is that tournament matches/rounds are decided in a single game.

If there are 4 or fewer participants it is recommended that a tournament is held as a round-robin. If there are 5 or more players then it will be held as a Swiss-round system where players face off against those with a similar score.

Some tournaments are held with a qualifiers stage held as a Swiss-round, followed by single-elimination style finals between the players who finished highest in the qualifying rounds (top cut). Finals rounds are sometimes held as a best of three games (maximum of 3 games in a match/round).

2-3. Numbers of rounds

The number of rounds set for a Swiss-draw will vary by the number of participants as below:

5 to 8 players : 3 rounds

9 to 16 players : 4 rounds

17 to 32 players : 5 rounds

33 to 64 players : 6 rounds

65 to 128 players : 7 rounds

129 to 256 players : 8 rounds

257 to 512 players : 9 rounds

2-4. Victory points

Round winners are awarded 3 points. Losses and draws score no points.

2-5. Deciding the player ranking

For in-store tournaments the player with the most victory points is deemed the winner. If two or more players have the same score, then the ranking order should be decided by a random method or following the official OP software tiebreakers depending on the scale of the tournament.

For official tournaments, Players are ranked in order of the number of victory points they have earned. If two or more players have the same score then the order amongst them is decided using their opponent's match win percentage* and subsequent tiebreakers logged into the official OP software.

*This is a calculation of the average number of victory points that a player's opponents have earned

3. Regulations regarding round times

3-1. Match times

For single game rounds, one game will be held over 30 minutes. For best of three rounds, all games will be held over a duration of 70 minutes.

3-1-1. In the case of a single elimination

If the tournament is held over the course of two days or more, and there is ample time to allow for the single elimination match, then the organizer can decide to make the final round without time limit.

3-2. Extensions

Once the allotted time has elapsed, three more “overtime” turns will be played, with the current turn considered as “turn 0”. The game is concluded when one player earns victory, but if no conclusion is reached within the three turns then the situation is handled as below in the “Handling situations where the allotted time is exceeded” section.

3-3. Handling situations where the allotted time is exceeded

If the game has not concluded within the three overtime turns, the match is ended after the third turn finishes and both players are deemed to have lost. This means both players will earn no victory points for that match.

3-4. Single Elimination

In a single elimination match, if the winner is not determined after the three (3) additional turns when time has run out, then the winner is determined by the difference in life points. Whomever has dealt more damage at that point will be deemed the winner.

In a best-of-three, if time runs out (including the three additional turns) with a score of one win & one loss, and there is no difference between the amount of damage both players have taken, then we will enter sudden death, and the winner will be decided with the next point of damage. In sudden death, the player who takes the first point of damage loses, making the opposing player the winner.

Now, if time runs out with the score of one win & no loss, then we will extend for an additional three (3) turns. If the winner is not determined within those turns, then the player with one win will be deemed the winner. If the score becomes one win & one loss in the three (3) turns, then we will proceed to a third game. This will be sudden death, with the first person to take a point of damage losing the match, and the opposing player declared the winner

3. Special tournament rules

4-1. Limited

Special rules are used for tournaments held under the “limited” rules, such as “sealed” and booster draft.”

4-1-1. Number of cards in a deck

The number of cards in a “limited” rules deck is 40 or more. There is no upper limit to the number. In addition, there is no upper limit to the number of cards of the same serial number that can be included.

4-1-2. Changes to the maximum damage limit

Under the “limited” rules the game ends once a player has inflicted 6 points of damage on their opponent.

4-1-3. Booster packs used

Under the limited rules, tournament organizers will prepare sealed booster packs and distribute these to the participating players. Players will not be allowed to use packs or cards that they have brought themselves.

4-2. Team matches

Special rules are used for tournaments held as team events

4-2-1. Size of teams

The basic rule for team matches is that one team consists of three players. If there are insufficient players to make up this number then a team will not be allowed to enter the tournament.

4-2-2. Deciding victory

All three players on each team will play against the opposing team simultaneously and the team that have achieved the most total victories is deemed to be the winner.

4-2-3. Deck composition rules

For team matches, all three team members share the same card pool. Each team can have up to three of the same numbered card in their pool.

4-2-4. Conversation between team members

During a team match, not just conversation but all forms of communication between players are prohibited. Players must also adhere to a suitable play time limit.

4. Players

5-1. Duties and rights of the players

The players entering the tournament have the follow duties.

- Follow the instruction of referees and tournament staff, and ensure the tournament proceeds smoothly.
- Communicate appropriately with competitors, and ensure the game proceeds smoothly.
- Follow general etiquette, and avoid causing any nuisance to other players.
- Players are responsible for bringing essential items to the tournament, like their deck, etc.
- Joining this tournament with an online name (team name) is acceptable, however any names that are not appropriate for public use will be prohibited.

5-2. Spectating

Regardless of whether you are part or not part of the tournament, coming to the games as a spectator will be permitted.

Spectators have the following duties.

- Giving advice to players' mid-game is not allowed. Please note that this includes gestures and facial expressions that can provide the players with additional information of any kind.

- In the case that an irregularity occurs during a game, please ensure to contact a referee as soon as possible. If this occurs, a spectator may halt the game, but has no other rights to intervene other than that.

6. Items used in the games

6-1. Deck

The players are responsible for bringing their own deck to the tournament. (This is not the case for a limited game).

The number of cards in a deck for a standard game is exactly 50. A greater or lesser number of cards is not permitted. No more than three of the same numbered card may be included in a deck. It is not possible to change decks, cards, etc., between rounds in the tournament.

6-2. Cards that can be used

In store tournaments, all previously distributed promotion cards, and all sets on sale at the point of the tournament starting, will be usable.

In grade 2 tournaments, all previously distributed promotion cards, and all sets that have been on sale for at least one week at the point of the tournament starting, will be usable.

In grade 3 tournaments, all previously distributed promotion cards, and all sets that have been on sale for at least two weeks from at point of the tournament starting, will be usable.

6-3. Official Cards

All cards within a deck must be official FF-TCG cards. This is true, regardless of the language of the card, and cards of several different languages may be present within the same deck. However, the organizer may put a limitation on which languages may be used. Any cards that are prohibited, or have a limit on the amount allowed, must follow the instructions exactly as they are.

The following cards will not be allowed in a deck:

- Duplicate, counterfeit or non-official cards
- Any cards damaged to an extent that it will affect game play
- Any cards where understanding of the card name or text is obscured by things like signatures, or graffiti.
- Anything else that the Tournament Organizer deems will cause an issue in the game.

6-4. Sleeves

Players are able to use sleeves to protect their cards. There is no restriction on what type of sleeve is used, but all sleeves must be the same colour and patterns, with cards facing the same way, and

you should not be able to differentiate the cards in any way.

Sleeves should not have any effect on the game, and if the referee considers the sleeves inappropriate for public usage, they can be deemed as prohibited.

6-5. Play mats

Players can use playmats for the sake of preventing card damage.

Playmats should not have any effect on the game, and if the referee considers the sleeves inappropriate for public usage, they can be deemed as prohibited.

6-6. Markers

To record temporary elements of the game, players can use things like tokens and dice that can be placed on the game table, but the below items are prohibited.

- FF-TCG cards
- Coins or currency
- Anything else deemed not appropriate by referees

6-7. Prohibited items

Any items not mentioned in section 6. "Items used in the games" above are prohibited as they may disturb the progression of the tournament.

7. Referee

7-1. Definition of a referee

Referees are there to ensure the appropriate progression of the tournament. This could in the form of answering questions from the player, and correcting any games that are not following correct procedure. Referees also have the authority to act on players that are not behaving appropriately.

7-2. Referee types

Floor Referee

Floor referees can declare rules. In tournaments in which the second ruling system is not in use, the floor referees have the final say in rules.

Head Referee

Head referees have the responsibility of having the final say in a tournament, and are there when the second ruling system is in place.

7-3. The right to ask for ruling

All players participating in the tournament have the right to ask for a ruling from the referees. If this incurs a negative result onto yourself, you cannot withdraw the calling of the referee.

7-4. Primary ruling from a referee

Please pause the game and call a referee if a rule is unclear between players or if a game is proceeding in an inappropriate way. The referee will carry out a ruling.

7-5. Reporting to a head judge

In the case that you are unhappy with a referee's ruling, you can raise the issue to a head judge. If this occurs, the head judge will make a further ruling, and this will be the final decision. This ruling cannot be overturned.

7-6. Extension time for ruling

If the time taken for the referee to make a ruling takes over 1 minute, the amount of time taken will be added back to the game. The referee must record this time, and inform the players of this.

8. Penalty rules

8-1. General

All players have a duty to respect their opponents, and base the game on the correct rule system. This penalty rule system will be referred to when the correct rules of the game are broken, regardless whether or not the fault was intentional or the player was aware of this.

This ruling system is applied to all tournaments. Referees can solve any issues when a problem occurs within the tournament. The penalty type given is up to the referee. In the case that the problem cannot be solved by following this penalty rule system, it falls to the judgment of the referee.

Referee should be fully aware that as they can pass down just a penalty following this penalty ruling system, they can cause a huge negative impact on players, therefore they should take care not to pass incorrect judgements.

8-2. Types of penalties

[Caution]

This penalty can be applied against illegal actions that are not serious enough to affect tournament progression or illegal actions that can be easily rectified, such as mistakenly deploying two character of the same name to the field at once or mistaking the resource cost of a card etc. In cases where the

same illegal action is repeatedly performed, the judges may, at their discretion, escalate the penalty to an official warning.

【Official warning】

This penalty can be applied against illegal actions that can be rectified but have a level of influence on the outcome of the game, such as drawing too many cards, turning over two cards when taking damage or dropping a card and seeing its face when shuffling an opponent's deck etc. This can also be applied in cases where multiple cautions for the same offence are incurred repeatedly by a player. If several official warnings for the same offence are incurred by a player repeatedly, the judges may, at their discretion, escalate the penalty to instant defeat.

【Instant defeat】

This penalty can be applied against illegal actions that make continuing a game impossible, such as playing with an illegal deck that has four or more of the same card in it or not abiding by staff decisions during play. A player who has been subjected to an instant defeat ruling and does not improve their problematic behavior will incur disqualification.

【Disqualification】

All acts of deliberate deception (cheating) are grounds for disqualification. In addition, all criminal actions involving endangering or hurting other players or staff or damaging the tournament venue and equipment, or corresponding behavior will incur disqualification upon the offending player. Players subject to disqualification will be immediately removed from the tournament in progress. Depending on the nature of the offence, there is a possibility that the offender will be banned from future official FF-TCG events held by Hobby Japan.

【Forfeiting the right to receive a reward】

This is given at the same time as when a player is disqualified. That player will no longer be able to receive any form of a prize or authority from that tournament.

【Suspension of the right to enter tournaments】

A player who has been awarded a disqualification may be forbidden from entering any future FF-TCG tournaments and events held by Square Enix or Hobby Japan. If a disqualification is reported to Square Enix or Hobby Japan then an investigation will be undertaken by the tournament operating committee and additional penalties will be decided upon.

8-3. Lateness

Players have a responsibility to be in their seats by the start of a round.

If a player is more than 5 minutes late in reporting to their play area when a round commences, they will forfeit the match and be deemed to have lost. Play will commence and continue normally if the player arrives within 5 minutes of the round start time, but the late player will incur an official warning. If the game then goes on to exceed the play time limit, an overtime period equivalent to the delay in the late player arriving will be allowed. In addition, if a late player is not present in the tournament venue before the start of the subsequent round, they are automatically deemed to have withdrawn from the game.

8-4. Rewinding the game

In the case that a rule of card has not been dealt with in the correct way and the game has continued without this being noticed, as per the ruling of the referee, it is possible to rewind the game. If the game has not progressed that far and the issue is noticed relatively quickly then this action is not permitted. The card that was used is returned to the player's hand and the cost paid is returned.

If the game has already progressed so far that it is impossible to rewind, the game will continue as it is. The player that caused the issue will receive an official warning, and the player opposite that did not notice will be issued a caution.

8-5. Incorrect game progression

There are cases in which the game can progress incorrectly, without deliberate intention on the part of the players, but just down to their inadequacy. The appropriate action for these cases is detailed below:

When characters the rules forbid from being deployed to the field at the same time are deployed illegally together

In situations where two characters that the rules forbid from existing at the same time are placed on

the field and the game continues then both of the offending cards are placed in the break zone. This applies when named, non-general unit cards are deployed together or when multiple cards with the light or darkness element are deployed. In situations where 6 or more backup cards are deployed, the excess cards are moved to the break zone one at a time, starting with the last to be placed down and working backwards until only 5 remain. All auto abilities that are usually triggered by cards being placed into the break zone are not triggered when they are moved in this manner.

When a player has 6 or more cards in their hand but play has passed over to the opponent and the game progressed since

Place one card randomly chosen from the player's hand into the break zone.

If a player's hand of cards is too large when the game begins

Return all hand cards to the bottom of the player's deck and re-draw the whole hand. A situation where a player draws too many cards on the first turn is handled in the same way.

Seeing cards in the card pile

The pile should be re-shuffled. In the case that effects from a redraw from the start of the game can make it clear where a cards location could be, these should be dis-included from the shuffle, and kept in the same place once the shuffling has finished.

When taking too many cards

In the case that the card drawn is clear, that card is made public and placed back on top of the pile. If unclear, a referee will take a card from the player's hand at random, reveal it, and place it back on the top of the pile.

Forgetting to initiate an auto-ability

If it is still possible to rewind play and carry out the correct procedures at the time the player realizes they have forgotten to initiate the ability then that should be done. If the game has proceeded too far and it is no longer possible to work this out however, then the game proceeds as normal with the ability unused. For abilities worded as "the player may", where the player has the option to use an ability or not, it is treated as though the player had elected not to use the ability in this case and play proceeds as normal. In the case of abilities that allow the player to "select up to XX cards", it is treated as though the player had selected zero cards and play proceeds as normal.

8-6. Illegal actions

See below for details of how to proceed in situations where it is realized that illegal actions have taken place.

Insufficient shuffling

When a deck is shuffled during play, it is necessary to ensure that the cards are suitably randomized. Situations where either player is aware of the position of a specific card within the deck or where the deck is exposed so that the distribution of card types within the deck are evened out etc. are not considered "suitably shuffled". This action will earn an "Official Warning".

In order to ensure a suitable shuffle, the shuffler must employ multiple shuffling techniques in combination. It is also not permitted to only shuffle in a simplified manner in order to protect cards or card sleeves.

A player's deck does not follow the rules

If it becomes clear during a match that one player's deck does not follow the accepted deck composition rules, such as by having 4 or more of the same card in it, containing cards that are prohibited for the tournament etc., that game is deemed an instant defeat for the player using the offending deck.

After the game is forfeited, the player is only permitted to proceed to play their next game if they have amended their deck so it is within the rules. If it is clear that a player is deliberately using an illegal deck then that player is immediately disqualified.

Slow play

Players participating in tournaments have a responsibility to progress through the game in a suitable manner. Judges are allowed enforce prompt play in situations where they feel a player is taking an unnecessarily long time. If players do not comply with a judge's prompting or instructions then the judge is permitted to issue an official warning. Unnecessarily slow play will not be tolerated, even for time extension turns which do not have a set time limit.

Deliberate Slow taking of actions to delay play

This refers to deliberate timewasting activities, such as the repeated performing of unnecessary actions during play. This kind of deliberate slow play is not to be condoned from the perspective of showing correct respect towards the tournament progression or the player's opponent. Players guilty of this kind of behavior should first be issued a caution and it is possible for this to be escalated to a judgement of instant defeat or disqualification if the situation does not improve. The following actions are included in the definition of slow taking of actions:

- 1: Unnecessary and repeated checking of players hands, the numbers of cards in the break zone or cards remaining in players decks when nothing has changed about the current play situation.
- 2: Taking an unnecessarily long time shuffling cards
- 3: Leaving ones seat without the permission of judges or an urgent reason to do so.
- 4: Other circumstances where judges deem a player is deliberately wasting time.

Influencing the results of a match

Players are not allowed to influence the results of a match in any manner other than FF-TCG gameplay. The following actions are all deemed to be illegal and will result in disqualification procedures being applied.

- Playing using random decisions, such as drawing lots etc.
- Offering an opponent money etc. in return for deliberately throwing a match.

Falsification of information

If a player is discovered to have falsified information relating to the tournament or match progression, this is deemed to be illegal and will result in disqualification procedures being applied.

The following are examples of falsification of information:

- Entering a tournament under a false identity
- Deliberately not calling for a judge in order to gain an advantage in the game
- Reporting an incorrect or falsified match result to the organizers or fiddling the scores.
- Deliberately giving false information in response to an opponent or judge's question.

Ungentlemanly or antisocial conduct

If ungentlemanly or antisocial behavior is shown, either during or outside of a match, this will result in disqualification procedures being applied. The following are examples of ungentlemanly or antisocial behavior:

- Not following the instructions of judges or tournament staff and repeatedly causing inconvenience on others.
- Using violence or threatening language against other players, judges or tournament staff.
- Persistently demanding for disciplinary action to be taken against ones opponent or other player.
- Actions that are in violation of national or local laws, such as theft or deliberate property damage.