

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for an invite to the Core NetWars Tournament of Champions?

- For this year's Tournament of Champions, top-scoring players from December 2019 to November 2021 Core NetWars Tournaments will be eligible. There will be two categories:
 - ▶ Top individual players (generally the top 5 individuals from each event)
 - ▶ Top teams (generally the members of the first place team at each event)
- SANS employees, instructors (at a trial level and above), and TAs are not eligible to participate.

Which version of Core NetWars Tournament will be running at this year's Tournament of Champions?

- This year's Tournament of Champions will be running Core NetWars Tournament 7 with a new Level 5. For this year's Tournament of Champions, we are designing an all-new Level 5 competition with a variety of advanced challenge topics, including defense, analysis, offense, and much more. Instead of a castle-versus-castle battle, you'll be showing your skills by addressing some truly deep and compelling cyber security challenges with minimal hints. The NetWars team will be publishing a recommended reading list a month in advance to help you prepare for this brand new set of challenges.

When is the Tournament of Champions occurring this year?

- The Tournament is scheduled as follows:
 - ▶ Thursday, December 16th from 6:30-9:30PM EST (UTC - 5)
 - ▶ Friday, December 17th from 6:30-9:30PM EST (UTC - 5)

Will there be a virtual Champions Reception?

- Yes, SANS will hold a virtual Reception with Ed Skoudis and other special speakers on Thursday, December 16th, at 6:00PM EST before the tournament begins.

In what time zone is the Reception and Tournament occurring?

- The Reception and Tournament are being hosted in US Eastern Time (UTC - 5).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED...

Is the Tournament of Champions In-Person this year?

- Champions may choose to participate Live Online or In-Person. The Tournament itself will be hosted online in conjunction with **SANS Cyber Defense Initiative® 2021**. If you prefer to play in a group setting, you are welcome to join us In-Person at the **Washington Hilton**. Please see event page for the latest Health & Safety protocols for In-Person attendees. Whether you attend In-Person or Live Online, you will be able to fully participate, have access to real-time support and interactive chat features, and will receive your prizes.
- Prizes will be shipped to all participants and winners, regardless of attendance modality.
- Please indicate whether you plan to attend In-Person or Live Online by December 3rd so we can prepare accordingly.

What will Champions receive for participating this year?

- NEW for the 2021 Championship! All Champions who participate will receive a newly designed, embroidered Tournament of Champions hat, as well as a newly minted Core NetWars Tournament of Champions coin. To receive your exclusive participation prizes, you must follow these steps:
 1. Register and provide your current mailing address
(you will receive an email by Nov 30th requesting you to provide your information)
 2. Participate in the Tournament
- Hats and coins will be shipped based on participation, not solely on eligibility or registration. In other words, you have to play to get these exclusive participation prizes. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

When will I receive my participation prizes?

- Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery of hats and coins.
 - ▶ EU Participants - SANS is required to declare the value of all shipments into the EU following the VAT rule changes. VAT is not always collected on gifts, but this is up to the tax collectors and varies on locality.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED...

Will winners receive Tournament of Champions trophies for their victory in the Tournament of Champions?

- Yes, trophies will be shipped to players who take the top three* spots in the Tournament of Champions.
- *Qualifications for trophies are as follows:
 - ▶ 1st place trophy: A player must be the first place individual or a member of the first place team.
 - ▶ 2nd place trophy: A player must be the second place individual or a member of the second place team.
 - ▶ 3rd place trophy: A player must be the third place individual or a member of the third place team.
- Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery of trophies.
 - ▶ EU Participants - SANS is required to declare the value of all shipments into the EU following the VAT rule changes. VAT is not always collected on gifts, but this is up to the tax collectors and varies on locality.

What is the team size limit?

- The team size limit is five eligible players. Each team member must be eligible for the Tournament of Champions in order to participate.

If some of my team members have not played Core NetWars Tournament 7, will we be on the Champion Non-Veteran or Champion Veteran scoreboard?

- If any of your teammates are veteran players of Core Tournament 7 (which the vast majority of players are), your team will participate on the veteran's scoreboard.

If I'm taking a bootcamp course at CDI with extended hours, will I be able to participate in the Tournament of Champions?

- Yes, you are welcome to participate. However, the schedule for the Tournament is firm and may or may not overlap with some of your class time. If your course has a bootcamp and you plan on leaving early for the tournament please let your instructor or TA know in advance that you will need to leave class early to join the Tournament.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED...

If I have questions during the Tournament, whom do I contact?

- SANS instructors and TAs will be available on Slack throughout the Tournament should any questions or issues arise. They can answer your questions in real-time.

What's this new Level 5 all about?

- This year's Tournament of Champions will be running Core NetWars Tournament 7 with a new Level 5. For this year's Tournament of Champions, we are designing an all-new Level 5 competition with a variety of advanced challenge topics, including defense, analysis, offense, and much more. Instead of a castle-versus-castle battle, you'll be showing your skills by addressing some truly deep and compelling cyber security challenges with minimal hints. The NetWars team will be publishing a recommended reading list a month in advance to help you prepare for this brand new set of challenges.

When will Tournament of Champion invitations be sent?

- We will begin sending invitations to eligible players between November 9th and 23rd.

How do I know if I have successfully registered for the Tournament of Champions?

- You will receive a confirmation email after you register.
- You will also receive an email the week of the Tournament detailing how to enter the Reception and Tournament.

I did not receive an invite but believe I am eligible. Who may I contact to inquire about this?

- Due to privacy policies such as GDPR, SANS is unable to send email invitations to those who do not have an active SANS account connected to NetWars. If you believe you are eligible but did not receive an email invitation by November 24th, please contact support@sans.org. They will verify your eligibility for the Championship and will assist you in setting up your account and registering for the game if you are eligible to participate.