

CORE NETWARS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for an invite to the SANS Core NetWars Tournament of Champions 2026?

SANS is inviting winners from Core NetWars tournaments held from mid November 2025 through November 2026. SANS employees, instructors (at a trial level and above), and TAs are not eligible to participate.

Players **must have finished** in either of the following categories in mid November 2025 through mid November 2026 Core NetWars tournaments:

- **Solo players:** The top 5 solo players from each event.
- **Team players:** The members of the 1st place team at each event.

I was also invited to the Services Cup. Can I participate in both events?

No. You can only participate in one event. If you participate in the Services Cup, you cannot play in the Core NetWars Tournament of Champions, and vice versa.

When is the due date to register for the tournament?

- Registration closes on December 1st, 2026.

How many players can a team have?

- Each team may have up to 5 eligible players.

What will players and champions receive for participating this year?

- Every player receives a commemorative challenge coin and digital badge. The top 5 players and each member of the top team will receive a trophy.

When will the tournament happen this year?

The tournament is held over 2 consecutive evenings:

- Thursday, December 17th from 6:30 – 9:30 pm US Eastern Time.
- Friday, December 18th from 6:30 – 9:30 pm US Eastern Time.

Where will the tournament be held this year?

The SANS Core NetWars Tournament of Champions 2026 will be an **in-person-only** event hosted in conjunction with SANS Cyber Defense Initiative® 2026.

- **Location:** ***Grand Hyatt Washington***
- **Address:** 1000 H Street NW | Washington D.C. – 20001 | United States



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The Grand Hyatt Hotel is offering a special discount rate of **$242.00 (single/double occupancy)** per night, plus applicable taxes. The special discounted rate is based on availability. A limited number of Government Per Diem rooms at the prevailing rate are available with proper ID. These rates are only available through Monday, November 23, 2026.

- To make a regular reservation, ***visit this link***
- To make a government per diem reservation, ***visit this link***

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

- 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 you are attending 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.

Who do I contact for questions during the tournament?

- 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.

How do I know if I have successfully registered for the tournament?

You will receive four (4) emails related to the registrations process as the following:

- **Email #1** will contain a web form to register for the tournament.
- **Email #2** will be confirming your registration.
- **Email #3** will detail how to access the tournament, expect this communication on the week of the tournament.
- **Email #4** will be a confirmation from Ranges.io after your access within Ranges.io. This means you are successfully registered!

I did not receive an invite, but I 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 29th, 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.
- The SANS Core NetWars Tournament of Champions is an exclusive, invitation-only event. All player names undergo strict auditing, and any attempts to gain unauthorized entry will result in a permanent ban from future competitions.

Can our team make substitutions?

- Yes, each team is allowed to make one (1) substitution. We understand that teams may represent companies where players might change. If your team needs to substitute a player, please inform us by sending the details to our support email (**support@sans.org**) prior to the tournament. This ensures fair play and proper team management.