

World Team Carcassonne Online Championship 2023

(WTCOC 2023)

Registration is open March 13 - April 7, 2023

Tournament begins April 10, 2023

The fourth edition of the World Team Carcassonne Online Championship (WTCOC) will be held on the online platform Board Game Arena (BGA): <https://boardgamearena.com>

Eligibility

Each team must consist of players from the same country, or from a single region where Carcassonne is published. Only one team per country/region is allowed.

The members of the team must have been born or currently live in the country or region that they are going to represent.

*Teams that can participate with special names and flags:

Players born or residing in Belarus will participate in the competition under the name **Tutejsýja**, that means "those who are from here". This name was proposed by the team itself and has been considered valid after evaluation by the organizing members of the WTCOC.

Players born or residing in Russia will participate under the acronym **RCP** (Russian Carcassonne Players) that they already used last year.

Requirements

Pre-registration:

All teams must be pre-registered before registration begins (March 13, 2023).

Registration:

Captains will be required to register their teams for the tournament. To do this, they must register using the WTCOC web application. Once there, they will register all the members of their team by completing all the required fields. Each player must be registered with their exact username as it is written in BGA, and it will be necessary to include a link to their profile on the platform. Captains will be responsible for ensuring

that the profile information of each team member is accurate and up-to-date throughout the duration of the tournament (i.e. standard/premium account type, etc.).

Follow the rules:

Team captains must ensure that every player on their team understands and agrees to follow the tournament rules.

Team composition:

Teams must have a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 10 players.

Eight members of the team must play at least 1 duel during the group stage of the tournament. In case of breaking this rule, the team will lose one match point in the final results of the group stage.

Each team must have a captain who is responsible for ensuring that team members understand and follow the tournament rules, including any updates announced by the organizers during the tournament. Additional responsibilities include scheduling match dates with other team captains and reporting game results through the WTCOC application.

Teams will be allowed, if necessary and during the group stage only, to add players to their team (up to a maximum of 10 players) or to replace players with new players. Regardless of any team changes during the tournament, at the end of the group phase, 8 of the team members must have played at least one duel. In the event that a team wants to make a change, the captain must notify it by sending an e-mail to carcassonnecat@gmail.com.

Each team must have at least 3 players with Premium BGA accounts.

For your information: a monthly subscription costs **5 €**. *The organizers do not gain any revenue from the fact that players would subscribe to a Premium BGA account.*

Tournament Schedule

Registration: March 13 - April 7

Group Phase

- Draw: April 9 at 17 h UTC.
- Championship begins April 10th.
- Each team will play one match per week, unless the schedule shows that a team has a resting week.

Playoff Phase

- Starts immediately after the group phase ends.
- Each qualified team will play one match per week.

Match Scheduling and Reporting Results

- Captains must agree on and submit their match dates and times by midnight (23:59 UTC) on Wednesday each week.
- Captains must submit lineups at least 24 hours before the match begins (details in Tournament Mechanics section below).
- Captains/players must submit the results of all match games within 24 hours of the published match time.

Tournament Format

The tournament will be split in two phases: a *group phase* followed by a *playoff phase*.

Draw

*On April 9 th (17 h UTC) a draw will be streamed on <https://discord.gg/F8kYsMqQ> which will divide all registered teams up into four groups. There will be four seeds assigned to different groups based on the results of WTCOC 2022. The remaining teams will be assigned to groups randomly. The number of teams per group and the number of teams qualifying for the playoff phase will be announced during the draw, and will depend on the number of registered teams. The draw will take place live and will be generated by the WTCOC application.

Group Phase

Each group will participate in a round robin of matches, i.e. every team will play a match against every other team in its group. Teams will generally participate in one match per week, except for teams in odd-sized groups that will have one resting week during the group phase.

Playoff Phase

Once the group phase is complete, the best 3 teams from each group will qualify for the playoffs (elimination rounds) as illustrated in the following image from last year's competition. The dates are pending modification.



Match Scheduling & Submitting Lineups

Each week, the team captains are expected to agree on, and submit the day and time for their match by midnight (23:59 UTC) on Wednesday of that week through the WTCOC web application. Teams may schedule and hold their matches before that deadline, as long as the date, time, and lineups are submitted at least 24 hours before the match begins.

Team captains are also expected to submit their team's lineup through the WTCOC web application at least 24 hours before the match begins. The match lineups will be published on the WTCOC application as soon as possible to reveal the opponents in each duel.

Once the lineup of a team has been submitted, only one player may be changed due to unforeseen major events with the approval of tournament organizers. In such a case, you must send an e-mail to carcassonnecat@gmail.com to ask for permission.

If the match date and time have not been submitted by midnight (23:59 UTC) on Wednesday, the match will automatically be scheduled for Sunday at the following times according to the continents of the two teams:

- Europe/Africa – Asia/Oceania: 11:00 UTC (13h CEST/ 20h JST)
- Asia/Oceania – Americas: 01:00 UTC (Sunday 10h JST/ Saturday 21h EDT)
- Americas – Europe/Africa: 16:00 UTC (12h EDT/ 18h CEST)
- Europe/Africa- Europe/Africa: 17:00 UTC (19h CEST)
- Asia/Oceania- Asia/Oceania: 11:00 UTC (20h JST)
- Americas-Americas: 17:00 UTC (13h EDT)

Converting times to and from UTC can be tricky. Here is an online app that might help: <https://savvytime.com/converter>

Match Format

A **match** is an encounter between two teams consisting of 5 **duels** (best-of-3 encounters between two players, one from each team), each consisting of at least two **games** played on BGA, with a third game played if necessary to ensure that one player has two wins. All the duels in a match will be played simultaneously, at the date and time arranged by the team captains.




The two players participating in each duel will be determined according to the lineups submitted by their team captains. A **lineup** is the list of 5 players for a specific match, assigned to **lineup positions** #1-5 corresponding to duels #1-5. For example, duel #1 in a match will be the encounter between the player in lineup position #1 from the home team against the player in lineup position #1 from the away team. (See Figure 1).

In each match, there will be a **home team** and an **away team** assigned by the tournament organizers. The home team must assign players with Premium BGA accounts to be in the **initiator** lineup positions 1, 3, and 5, and the away team must assign players with Premium BGA accounts to the **initiator** lineup positions 2 and 4.

The **initiator** player will be in charge of creating the first game at the time that the confrontation between the two teams has been agreed. He will also be in charge of pressing the rematch button for the following game(s) of the duel. During the initial game of each duel, scheduled according to the agreement between captains, the two players will be given a margin of 15 minutes to show up for it. After this time, the player who has not appeared will lose the duel.

Every game will have one winner. If a game results in a tied score, the player who was not the starting player will be designated the winner. If one player wins the first two games in a duel, the duel ends and a third game should not be played.

Figure 1. Illustration of a WTCOC match consisting of 5 duels between home team players (meeples on the left) and away team players (meeples on the right). Each duel is a best-of-3 encounter between the two players with the same lineup positions (one from each team). Rematches are initiated by the player indicated with a meeple shield: 

Game Format/Settings

- Mode: Normal mode
- Game Speed: Real-time/Slow speed
- Number of players per game: 2
- All expansions: Off

- Field scoring: Each field is worth 3 points per adjacent completed city (International rules)
- Completed 2-tile cities: 4 points (International rules)







Tournament Standings

During the group phase of this tournament, teams are awarded points as follows:

- 1 match point** for each match won in the group phase
- 1 duel point** for each duel won in a match
- 1 game point** for each game won in a duel

The ranking of teams in the group phase will depend, in the following order, on the number of matches won (W = match points), the difference between the number of duels won and lost (DW - DL), and the difference between the number of games won and lost (GW - GL). If a tie persists, the same criteria will be applied using the only confrontations between the tied teams.

The following example shows the ranking within a group after 5 matches:

	TEAMS	W	DW	DL	GW	GL
1	 GERMANY	4	18	7	41	21
2	 POLAND	3	17	8	38	27
3	 NETHERLANDS	3	12	13	33	32
4	 FRANCE	2	10	15	28	34
5	 UNITED KINGDOM	2	10	15	27	36
6	 MÉXICO	1	8	17	21	38

W (Matches won) DW (Duels won) DL (Duels lost) GW (Games won) GL (Games lost)

The final ranking for 5th – last place in the tournament will be determined considering:

1. Round where the team is eliminated
2. Percentage of matches won
3. Percentage of duels won
4. Percentage of games won

Clock Rules

If a player runs out of time (i.e. exceed their allowed time) during a game he automatically loses it and must concede the game. This is only a loss for that particular game, not the entire duel. There are no exceptions to this rule. If he does not concede, the opponent must remind him to do so.

A player is considered to have exceeded their allowed time if the **time remaining** shown after they have completed a turn (i.e. when local clocks are reset to sync with the server clock) shows negative time. Generally, but not always, the number will also be shown in red.

If there is any doubt, or players do not follow the procedure described above, the game log (available in the replay view of the game) indicates if and when either player ran out of time during the game, overriding the final score.

Note: We recommend that players plan ahead to minimize any risk due to unreliable internet connections. Strategies that may help include:

- Have a cell phone capable of being a wireless hotspot handy
- Plan to be in a location with good wireless connection when you play (e.g. hotel wireless can be unreliable)

*Within this section, we incorporate **a couple of exceptions** that can only be applied to games played by players from the **Ukrainian team** who reside in the country at the time of the competition.

The **first exception** is that if in any game of a duel any of these players find themselves in a situation where their physical integrity is unexpectedly endangered, the game must be temporarily suspended and its format changed to turn-based mode, so that it can be continued as soon as possible at a safer moment. Note that despite the fact that the time format has been modified, and in said game the rule of time that governs the entire competition can no longer be applied, both players will have to continue playing the game as soon as possible as if they were playing it in real time (since its settings cannot be changed again) and trying with the greatest honesty to adjust to the game time strictly necessary to play it. That is, do not use this situation so that the game lasts hours or days, simply try to finish it as soon as possible.

This exception to the rule only applies to games that are affected by the aforementioned situation of unexpected risk. If there are remaining games to finish the duel, they will be played according to the official format as long as the same setback does not occur again.

The **second exception** is that in the event of an electricity blackout causing Wi-Fi and mobile internet to stop working, they will lose the game, but will be allowed to play any remaining games of the duel when electricity is turned back on, prior agreement with the rival player.

Within the flexibility that we incorporate with these exceptions to the rules, it is important to note that if there are duels affected by these situations, please end them as soon as possible. At the same time, carcassonnecat@gmail.com will have to be informed if this circumstance has occurred.

Courtesy and Fair Play Expectations

Match scheduling - Team captains are expected to check their e-mail regularly, and are encouraged to respond to scheduling requests within a day, even if it is to say that they are still working on it. Please do not wait until the last minute to confirm the match dates and times.

Discarded tiles - During a game, if a player cannot legally play their tile, the BGA platform automatically discards it at the beginning of their turn, and the player receives a new tile. The other player, however, does not see this. Although a subtle note is added to the game log, it is not part of the game play, so we ask that you inform your opponent (via the chat window) whenever you discard a tile.

Unauthorized assistance - Players are expected to play their own games without advice or coaching from others, and the use of tile-counting or memory aids (e.g. apps, spreadsheets, or pen and paper) is strictly forbidden. Players are also responsible for avoiding potential unrequested aid.

Consequences of unfair play - An individual or team that uses any form of inappropriate assistance during a game will be excluded from the tournament and potentially also from future editions of the WTCOC.

Concede a game - Except in the case of running out of time, games must be played until the end.

Tournament Mechanics

Registration Instructions:

To register a team, captains will have to access the Registration tab of the WTCOC application and proceed as follows:

First, they will have to select their country or region and register themselves by providing an e-mail address, their BGA username and profile link and a password. Then they will fill in all the fields related to the members of the team, that is, real name, BGA username, BGA profile link, and select whether or not each player has a Premium account.

Once the registration is finished, the organizers will validate it and make it public. The e-mail address and password submitted during the registration process will be further used to do any type of action within the application.

Register team

Select country or region ▼

Members

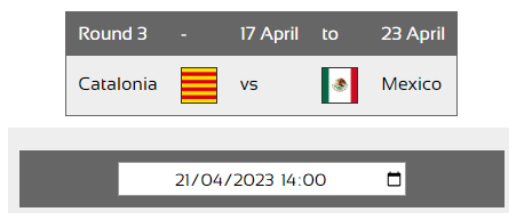
Captain name	Captain nickname	BGA link	Premium	Captain
<input type="text" value="Captain name"/>	<input type="text" value="Captain BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Captain BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Captain e-mail	Password			
<input type="text" value="Captain e-mail"/>	<input type="text" value="Password"/>			
Player name	Player BGA nickname	Player BGA link	Premium	
<input type="text" value="Player 2"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 2 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 2 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 3"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 3 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 3 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 4"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 4 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 4 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 5"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 5 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 5 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 6"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 6 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 6 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 7"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 7 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 7 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 8"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 8 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 8 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 9"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 9 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 9 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text" value="Player 10"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 10 BGA nickname"/>	<input type="text" value="Player 10 BGA link"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Register team

For any type of assistance during the process, captains can send an e-mail to carcassonnecat@gmail.com.

Instructions for submitting match date and time:

Captains must agree on and submit their match dates and times by Wednesday midnight (23:59 UTC) each week.



Both captains must fill in the designated space to confirm that there is an agreement on the match schedule. Until both captains have not completed it, the day and time will not be made public. The match dates and times will be posted on the WTCOC website as soon as possible.

Please, do not add the players who will play the game at this point.

Note that match dates and times must be submitted in UTC+0 time. Although the tournament organizers will reach out to clarify any discrepancies in date or time, this process will run much more smoothly if the captains assist with the verification.

Instructions for submitting lineups:

Captains will have to access the Teams tab of the WTCOC application and proceed as follows:

Player	Lineup	Result	Changes
1 barcelona	Pending	Pending	Open
2 tarragona	Pending	Pending	Open
3 barcelona	Pending	Pending	Open
4 lleida	Pending	Pending	Open
5 girona	Pending	Pending	Open

The captain of the home team must place a premium player in positions 1-3-5. In positions 2-4 they can place any player. To facilitate this task, the system will show the players on the team who meet the requirement in each position.

The captain of the away team must place a premium player in positions 2-4. In positions 1-3-5 they can place any player. To facilitate this task, the system will show the players on the team who meet the requirement in each position. The system will show an error if a player is lined up twice.

Captains must submit their lineups *at least* 24 hours before the match begins. The match lineups will then be posted on the WTCOC website as soon as possible.

*In case of not doing so within the aforementioned period, the team can be sanctioned with the loss of the match (the equivalent of 5 lost duels and 10 lost games).

Instructions for submitting results:

Once the match between two teams has ended, the captain of the winning team will be in charge of filling in the results in the first instance (and modifying them later if necessary). Once he has done it, the captain of the losing team will have to validate them. In the event that he notices an error in the results, he must contact the other captain so that he can proceed to modify them.

In case there is no agreement when entering a result, captains must send an e-mail to carcassonnecat@gmail.com.

In the example below, you can see how to proceed according to the different results:

No.	Won in a draw	Player		vs	Player	Won in a draw	Time	No-show	Not played	Validated by local team	Validated by away team
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	barcelona	100	vs	90	ciudadmex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	barcelona	100	vs	100	ciudadmex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	barcelona	1	vs	0	ciudadmex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	tarragona	0	vs	1	tijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	tarragona	0	vs	1	tijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	tarragona	0	vs	0	tijuana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	lleida	90	vs	90	leon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	lleida	120	vs	80	leon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	lleida	0	vs	0	leon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	girona	75	vs	80	juarez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	girona	99	vs	87	juarez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	girona	78	vs	102	juarez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	manresa	0	vs	1	puebla	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	manresa	77	vs	78	puebla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	manresa	0	vs	0	puebla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pending	Pending

Save results

- **Game without any incident:** (Example: Duel 1 / Game 1 - Barcelona vs Ciudadmex)

When a game ends without any type of incident, considering as an incident any situation that is not a victory within the scheduled time, captains only have to add the result of the game and do not fill any other box.

- **Game that ends with a tie on the scoreboard:** (Example: Duel 1 / Game 2 - Barcelona vs Ciudadmex)

The game ends with a draw, therefore the player who has not started the game is considered the winner. Thus, you have to write down the result of the match and activate the **Draw checkbox** for the corresponding player: In the case in the example, Ciudadmex.

- **Game that ends because a player has exceeded his game time:** (Example: Duel 1 / Game 3 - Barcelona vs Ciudadmex)

The game ends without reaching the end of it since one of the players has run out of time. The result will be 1-0 or 0-1 and the **Time checkbox** must be activated.

- **Game or Duel in which a player does not play or not show up:** (Example: Duel 2 / Game 1 and 2 - Tarragona vs Tijuana)

If a player does not show up for the duel, or decides not to play one of the games, the result will be 1-0 for the player who did show up at the game table. In this case, the **No-show checkbox** must be activated

- **When a duel is decided in two games:**

In this case, it will always be necessary to fill in the **Not Played checkbox** for the third game of the duel.

Duties of the Team Captains

- Ensure that all team members understand and agree to follow the rules, including any updates announced/e-mailed by the tournament organizers during the tournament.
- Remind team members to be courteous and respectful as players and spectators.
- Communicate with other captains and the tournament organizers.
- Submit the day, time, lineup and results for all matches on time.
- Communicate any changes regarding the players of the team by e-mail to carcassonnecat@gmail.com .

What happens if...?

Additional information about the following points can be found in the indicated rules sections/subsections above.

- No agreement on match date/time? see the final paragraph of the “*Match Scheduling & Submitting Lineups*” section above.
- Match or Duel not played? the team or player that doesn't show up on time loses.
- A player misses the start of a duel? the player loses the duel.
- Rematch button does not work because the rematch game was “abandoned”? set up a new game. If the starting player is wrong, create another game until the starting player is correct.
- A game is started with the incorrect settings or with the incorrect starting player? the game is invalidated, and must be restarted/replayed.

Dispute Arbitration Zone

The Dispute Arbitration Zone (DAZ) is available to consider any disputes and to make decisions regarding how the situation should be handled.

The organizers also reserve the right to take action against teams or players who are engaging in unfair or anti-regulatory attitudes.

To submit a dispute, please send an e-mail to dazwtcoc2023@gmail.com and carcassonnecat@gmail.com.

Prizes

*Each of the 4 teams that reaches the semifinals of the WTCOC will win a spot for one of their members to participate in the Individual Carcassonne World Championship in Essen this year.

This spot comes with a series of aspects to take into account:

- This opportunity is in no way a replacement for the places awarded to national champions in the usual way; the four WTCOC places available are totally independent of and in addition to these.
- The player who gets the spot in his/ her team will bear the cost of travel to and accommodation in Essen for the purpose of competing in the individual world championships.
- The player to whom the spot is awarded within each of the four eligible teams will be decided upon by the Carcassonne organisation that represents each team, or in the case that a team does not have an associated organisation behind it, by the members of the team itself.
- The captains of each of the awarded teams must inform the WTCOC organizers about the process used to determine the player that will participate in the World Championship in Essen.

We want to thank Hans Im Gluck and Spielezentrum Herne for the opportunity they have provided in giving more players this special chance to participate at the highest level by competing at the individual world championship in Essen.

Please Note:

Tournament organizers reserve the right to revise, clarify, or adjust these rules as necessary before and during the tournament, and will inform team captains of all such changes via email.

Questions or Concerns about the Rules?

For any questions, please contact carcassonneecat@gmail.com, and we will respond as soon as possible.

New in WTCOC 2023:

Please note that the WTCOC rules above contain essential details, and the following list is not a substitute for reading the rules completely!

- Captains must do the pre-registration of the team via e-mail and the registration via the WTCOC application.
- Captains must use the application to register the schedules, lineups and the results of the games.
- The players (1-3-5 local and 2-4 visiting) must create the games at Real-time/Slow speed and offer the rematch.

Clarifications on the rules:

23/03/2023 - In the Eligibility section, which this year has been rewritten to try to make it more understandable, we feel obliged to highlight the following in relation to the paragraph that says "**single region where Carcassonne is published**". As in previous editions of the WTCOC, we are talking about "**regions where Carcassonne has an official edition in their own regional language**".

Rules updates:

- *31/03/03 - In the Eligibility section, the subsection **Teams that can participate with special names and flags** has been added
- *31/03/03 - In the Clock rules section, two exceptions related to the games and duels played by players from **Ukraine** have been added.
- *03/04/03 - In the Prizes section, **prizes** for the 4 semi finalists teams have been added.
- *03/04/03 - In Draw section, the **day** and the **link** where you can follow the draw are specified.
- *21/04/03 - In the Prizes section, **the details** regarding the prize for the 4 semifinalist teams are updated.
- *12/05/03 - In the **Instructions for submitting lineups** section, the possible **penalty** for submitting the lineup out of time is specified.