North American Online League (NAOL) FAQ

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What is the North American Online League (NAOL)?

The NAOL is an online league run by the North American Go Federation in collaboration with the American, Canadian, and Mexican Go associations. It is intended to be a primary driver of an online rating connected to your Go association ID.

Who is eligible to play in the NAOL?

Anyone with an active American, Canadian, or Mexican Go association member is eligible to play in the NAOL.

You do not have to live in one of these countries to be a member of their Go association, but if you do live in one of these countries -- please sign up for the NAOL as a member of the country you live in (e.g. if you live in the US you should join as an AGA member).

How do I register?

You can sign up for the next season of NAOL on https://leago.gg/ and will know you are in if you see your name on the Standings page of Leago for the next season. Once registered you will start to receive important League information from the TD by email.

How do I play my game?

Games must be played with the **Let's Play** button in the **You** section of Leago! Please note that the OGS Link is only active once BOTH players have accepted the time.

- Sign in to Leago
- Click on the event North American Online League
- You will see 4 tabs on top of the page (**About, Matches, Standings, You**). Click on the **You** tab which should have all of your matches and additional details.
- You can accept the date of each game by clicking **ACCEPT**, or you hit **CLEAR** if the date does not work for you and you want to reschedule. *Note: The games may not be in date order. Click the header of the date column to sort.*
- When it's close to game time, go back to the Leago website. Click the YOU tab, and click the LET'S PLAY button. This will bring you to OGS, and put you on a waiting screen, until the other player clicks Lets Play as well.
- Your game is submitted automatically when finished (you don't have to do anything).

Optional (encouraged):

> To approximate the in-person match experience, join our weekly Zoom meeting here, and there are breakout rooms where you can meet with your opponent while you play.

Can you reschedule games?

Yes! Here is how:

- Sign in to Leago
- Click on the event North American Online League
- You will see 4 tabs on top of the page (**About, Matches, Standings, You**). Click on the **You** tab which should have all of your matches and additional details.
- You can accept the date of each game by clicking **ACCEPT**, or you hit **CLEAR** if the date does not work for you and you want to reschedule.
- If you hit **CLEAR**, you will see a message telling you to follow up with your opponent via email (and their email) to find a time that works for both of you.
- After you have cleared the game, it will be possible to add a new date and time.
- Both players must accept the new time. If they have, Leago will create a link to the OGS game (with all appropriate settings) at the new time. You can click on this link on Leago to play your game.

What is the NAOL Rating?

The NAOL rating you will earn during the league will be coincidently paired with your CGA, AGA, or AGA ratings. This rating will not increase or decrease your current go association Rating.

The NAOL uses the Glicko-2 rating system which you can read more about here: Welcome to Glicko ratings

You do not have to submit your games! Ratings will be updated in the next couple weeks. This will be instantaneous soon (but not quite there yet).

Rating variability in Season 1

There was some extreme rating variability in Season 1 of the NAOL that resulted in a poor experience for some players with otherwise established ratings. We apologize, thank you for your feedback, and are working with OGS on tuning parameters of the algorithm to make landing on a correct rank less rocky for players new to the system. We are not planning to retroactively adjust anything -- discussed, but not practical -- and playing more games is the best way to correct your rating.

Some additional details for those interested. In Season 1 we used the same uncertainty parameter for NAOL members that is used for new members to OGS. This parameter is deliberately set very high for new members of OGS to rapidly find the right rating for folks whom we have no rating information for. We're experimenting with reducing the value of this uncertainty parameter for NAOL members since we typically do have this information.

What is Leago?

Leago is a website built to make hosting and participating in tournaments and Leagues easier. Through the website you can find your standings, ranking, pairings, and reschedule your matches.

How do game reviews work?

The NAOL has a small budget for providing game reviews that we are experimenting with. We are not sure what this will look like going forward, but it is an exciting aspect of the league that we hope to expand. The TD will communicate information about reviews through email for the current season.

Please let us know if you do not want your game reviewed or a particular reviewer to review your game by sending an email to naol@usgo.org.

Are reviews recorded?

We will try to record all reviews and post them somewhere where they can be accessed, but we’re very much still trying to figure this out.