Chapter Rewards FAQ

What does the AGA Chapter Rewards Program do?

The Chapter Rewards Program works similarly to an airline or credit card rewards program. Chapters earn points when AGA members affiliated with that chapter engage in activities that qualify for rewards. Chapters also earn points when they sponsor an AGA-rated tournament or State Championship.

Points earned through the program can be used by chapters for reimbursement of expenses related to promoting American Go.

What member activities earn points for chapters?

The rewards program focuses on activities that are key indicators of organizational health, including membership growth and tournament participation.

Points are awarded for:

- New and renewing full memberships:
    - Youth
    - Adult Full
    - Adult Full – Lifetime
- AGA-rated games played
- Sponsoring an AGA-rated tournament
- Sponsoring a State Championship (additional bonus points)

Online games do not currently earn points.

How do chapters use points?

To request reimbursement, a chapter should email pictures or scans of receipts to rewards@usgo.org, along with:

- A brief description of the activity
- Contact information
- A mailing address

After approval, the chapter will be reimbursed up to the value of its available point balance.

Certain known expenses may be pre-approved and reimbursed in advance at the discretion of the Chapter Rewards Coordinator.

What is an affiliated member?

The AGA has chapters throughout the United States. During registration, members may choose to affiliate with a chapter. While chapter membership is not required, it is strongly encouraged.

Members may join or change chapters at any time by logging in at usgo.org, going to their Profile, and selecting **Chapters/Additional Memberships**.

When a member belongs to a chapter, their activity in AGA events can earn points for that chapter as long as their AGA membership is active.

Are points transferable?

Yes. A chapter may transfer points to another chapter by sending a request to rewards@usgo.org.

Do points expire?

Yes. Points expire two years after the date they are earned if they are not used.

Points are redeemed on a first-in, first-out basis, meaning the oldest points are used first.

Is the program transparent?

Yes. Point balances are updated nightly on usgo.org and are publicly viewable by selecting **Chapter Rewards** from the main menu.

Isn't it easier for larger chapters to earn points? What about small chapters?

The rewards formula includes bonuses for small and medium-sized chapters in order to encourage growth.

Each chapter has a **Multiplier** based on the number of active members:

- Fewer than 5 active members: Multiplier = 3
- 5–9 active members: Multiplier = 2
- 10 or more active members: Multiplier = 1

Points earned through member activity are multiplied by this factor, giving proportionally larger rewards to smaller chapters.

How are points calculated?

Membership and Game Activity

Base points are awarded as follows:

- Adult Full membership (new or renewing): 5,000 points per year
- Youth membership (new or renewing): 2,000 points per year
- Adult Full – Lifetime membership: 25,000 points
- AGA-rated game played:
    - 500 points for each player
    - A single game therefore generates 1,000 total points

The total earned points are then multiplied by the chapter's Multiplier based on chapter size.

If a member does not belong to a chapter when joining or renewing, the points will still be awarded if they affiliate with a chapter within 30 days.

Tournament Support Program

In addition to member activity points, chapters earn points for running tournaments through the Tournament Support Program.

These tournament points are awarded regardless of whether the participants belong to the sponsoring chapter.

The AGA Board has approved a formula based on the total number of rated games played across all sections of the event (for example, Open and Handicap sections combined).

The formula is designed to provide increasingly larger rewards for larger tournaments in order to encourage regional events.

Current Formula

Let **TG** = total rated games played.

- TG ≤ 15 → 0 points
- TG ≥ 700 → 1,000,000 points
- For TG between 15 and 700:

(((TG - 15) / (700 - 15)) ^ 0.93) × 1,000,000

Approved State Championships receive an additional 200,000 points.

Tournament support points are **not** subject to the chapter Multiplier.

What are points worth?

Points are valued at:

- 1,000 points = $1.00
- 100,000 points = $100.00

Will point awards or point valuation change?

The AGA reserves the right to review and modify the program over time, including:

- Which activities earn rewards
- How many points are awarded

However:

- The cash valuation of existing points will not change
- Previously earned points will not be reduced retroactively

What activities are reimbursable?

The purpose of the program is to encourage chapter creativity and enthusiasm in promoting American Go.

Examples of reimbursable expenses include:

- Tournament expenses:
    - Advertising
    - Food
    - Venue rental
    - Prizes
- Meetup group fees
- Outreach events at:
    - Schools
    - Libraries
    - Cultural festivals

Personal expenses unrelated to chapter-based Go promotion are not reimbursable.

The cost of individual AGA memberships is also not reimbursable.

If there is uncertainty about whether an expense qualifies, chapters are encouraged to ask in advance by emailing rewards@usgo.org.

Chapters are expected to exercise good judgment, and the AGA reserves the right to deny reimbursements if there appears to be an attempt to manipulate or abuse the rewards system.

What if a chapter is not current on its AGA dues? Can it still earn points?

No. A chapter must be current on its AGA dues in order to earn points.

Points may be used to pay chapter dues, and automatic renewal using points will occur if sufficient points are available.

Can my chapter be reimbursed for expenses incurred before points were earned?

Normally, points must be earned before expenses are incurred.

However, for known upcoming expenses, the Chapter Rewards Coordinator may approve advances at their discretion.