



# The Raptor League Handbook 2023

# Introduction

The Raptor League exists to enable players to test their skill and luck over an extended period.

There are ten tournaments each year – each tournament lasts one month. Tournaments are held every month, except for June and December.

## Divisions

There are THREE major Divisions, each having 12 players, who all play each other once during the month (i.e. a Round Robin).

The Divisions are ranked First: Eagles; Second: Hawks; Third: Falcons. If there is sufficient demand a Fourth Division (The Harriers) will be created.

At the end of every month:

- The three bottom-placed Eagles are relegated to the Hawks & the three bottom-placed Hawks are relegated to the Falcons.
- The three bottom-placed Falcons drop out of the league (but will have an opportunity to return – see ‘Joining the League’, below).
- The three leading Falcons are promoted to the Hawks & the three leading Hawks are promoted to the Eagles.

Promotion from a lower division is the only way to progress up the major divisions of the league. Players who are NOT being promoted or relegated will remain in the same division for the following month.

## Titles

The winner of the Eagles Division each month will be awarded the title ‘Golden Eagle’.

Similarly, the winners of the Hawks and Falcons Divisions will be awarded the titles ‘Sparrowhawk’ and ‘Saker Falcon’, respectively.

## Scoring

All matches are to 7 points, match play, with the Crawford Rule. The results of each match are used to allocate league points as follows.

A win by 1,2 or 3 points earns **THREE** league points, but a win by 4 or more points earns **FOUR** league points. A loss with a score of 6 earns **ONE** league point, otherwise the player earns **ZERO** league points.

League position is determined by league points earned, then by match points difference and ultimately by head-to-head result.

Note that, unlike other tournaments, this scoring regime is not built into the SimplyBG system and the tables showing the league scores have to be updated manually. This will be done as often as your Tournament Directors can manage but not less than once per week.

*Matches are released in sets of three and can be played in any order.  
- thus the deadlines are as follows:*

Rounds 1,2 & 3	8 <sup>th</sup> of the month
Rounds 4,5 & 6	15 <sup>th</sup> of the month
Rounds 7,8 & 9	22 <sup>nd</sup> of the month
Rounds 10 & 11	27 <sup>th</sup> of the month*
	* Only 5 days

All deadlines are 12:00 noon GMT/ 07:00 am EST/ 04:00 am PST

## Arranging games

League players are in many different time zones, habitually play at different times of day, and have differing commitments to work & caring responsibilities etc. It is therefore essential that you start all matches as soon as they appear in your dashboard and **communicate** your availability to play.

## Communication

In the chat board of your individual match:

You can type a message and draw your opponent's attention to this by making a move in the match (if it is your turn) which will highlight the match in his/her dashboard.

If you send a message to your opponent consisting solely of '!ping', then all recent messages will be sent to them by e mail if they are offline.

You can click on your opponent's avatar almost anywhere on the site and leave them a private message.

You can leave notes on the divisional chat board.

Lastly, you can post one or more proposed times to play on the match's 'Meetup' tab.

## Weird E mails

The SimplyBG architecture was not designed to accommodate a tournament like the league (odd scoring, continuing for months on end...). As a consequence the software often sends out automatically generated e mails which we are powerless to stop. Apologies.

## Other commitments

If you know in advance that you are unlikely to be able to play a match on time you can agree to play an equivalent match in advance (if your opponent is willing). Just play it and report the score on the chat board.

## Time out

Within a 5-month period of play, it is not possible to just take time out – either somebody gets promoted to take your place or we end up with everybody having a ‘bye’ that month.

## Change of circumstances

We recognise that the Raptor League requires a longer term commitment than any other tournament. If your circumstances change and you can no longer promise to meet match commitments, do please let a TD know and try to play out a full month before retiring from the league.

## Failure to meet a set deadline

Normally un-played matches are scored nil/nil at the deadline. If you report the score to a TD within 12 hours of the deadline we will correct the score.

The Raptor League has an independent Ombudsman. If you think that awarding zero points to both players is an unfair outcome for an uncompleted match, we can refer the match to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman may recommend that we award 1, 2 or 3 points to one of the players, or that no points should be awarded to either player. The Ombudsman’s decision is final.

Three uncompleted matches in a month will result in automatic relegation irrespective of position in the league.

## Managing promotions and relegations

Managing the league is only possible if the TDs can exercise the power to add/delete players from the divisions. To do this, players must use the option in the Divisional Box to give us permission. This only has to be done once. This power is ineffective if the player's subscription to Simply BG runs out in less than 30 days, so please respond quickly if you are advised that your subscription will lapse.

## Behaviour

We really want playing in the league to be a positive experience. The TDs may, at their absolute discretion, deduct league points (or, in extremis, bar players) who bring the league into disrepute by being disrespectful to, or about their fellow league members.

## Joining the League: The Fledglings Division

Each month the Fledglings Division will run a round robin tournament scored similarly to the main Divisions. It is open to as many players as wish to join in (up to a maximum of 12). Players wishing to participate may

- a) leave their names with the TDs
- b) enter on relegation from the Falcons
- c) sign up directly at the end of the previous month.

At the end of the month places in the Falcons will be offered to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed Fledglings players (or lower if the leaders do not wish to accept a place).

The offer of a place is conditional on:

- The player understanding the commitment they are being asked to make
- Reading and accepting the rules in this handbook
- Giving us the power to add them to divisions (including keeping 30 days on their SimplyBG subscription).

Players may, of course, choose not to accept and remain in the Fledgelings.

## Tournament Directors

Your TDs are Jeremy P, Pete D and Don G.



Backgammon - and the league – are for fun.  
Enjoy the tournament!