



# THE MAHJONG OPEN HANDBOOK

OFFICIAL RULES & LEAGUE POLICIES  
2026 EDITION  
EFFECTIVE AUGUST 20, 2026

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## THE MAHJONG OPEN HANDBOOK

2026 Edition

Version 2026.3

*Effective August 20, 2026*

This handbook contains the official playing policies and league procedures for The Mahjong Open. It is intended to provide members with a clear understanding of league play and may be updated periodically as the league grows.

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# Welcome

We're so glad you're here.

The Mahjong Open was created for one simple reason—we wanted more opportunities to play Mahjong, meet new people, and build stronger Mahjong communities.

Whether you're a seasoned player or recently discovered your love for the game, you'll find a welcoming community waiting for you.

Our hope is simple.

Play often.

Meet new friends.

Improve your game.

Most importantly...**Have fun!**

Because at the end of the day, Mahjong is more than a game—it's about the friendships built around the table.

*Welcome to The Mahjong Open!*

We'll see you at the table!

# About

The Mahjong Open is a flexible American Mahjong league where players can enjoy organized play while meeting new people and building friendships.

Instead of playing with the same group every week, members can join or host official rounds throughout the current league. You choose when you play, where you play, and how often you play.

Whether you're new to Mahjong or have years of experience, you'll find a welcoming community, friendly competition, and plenty of opportunities to play.

Our goal is simple:

- Play More Mahjong
- Meet More Players
- Have Fun

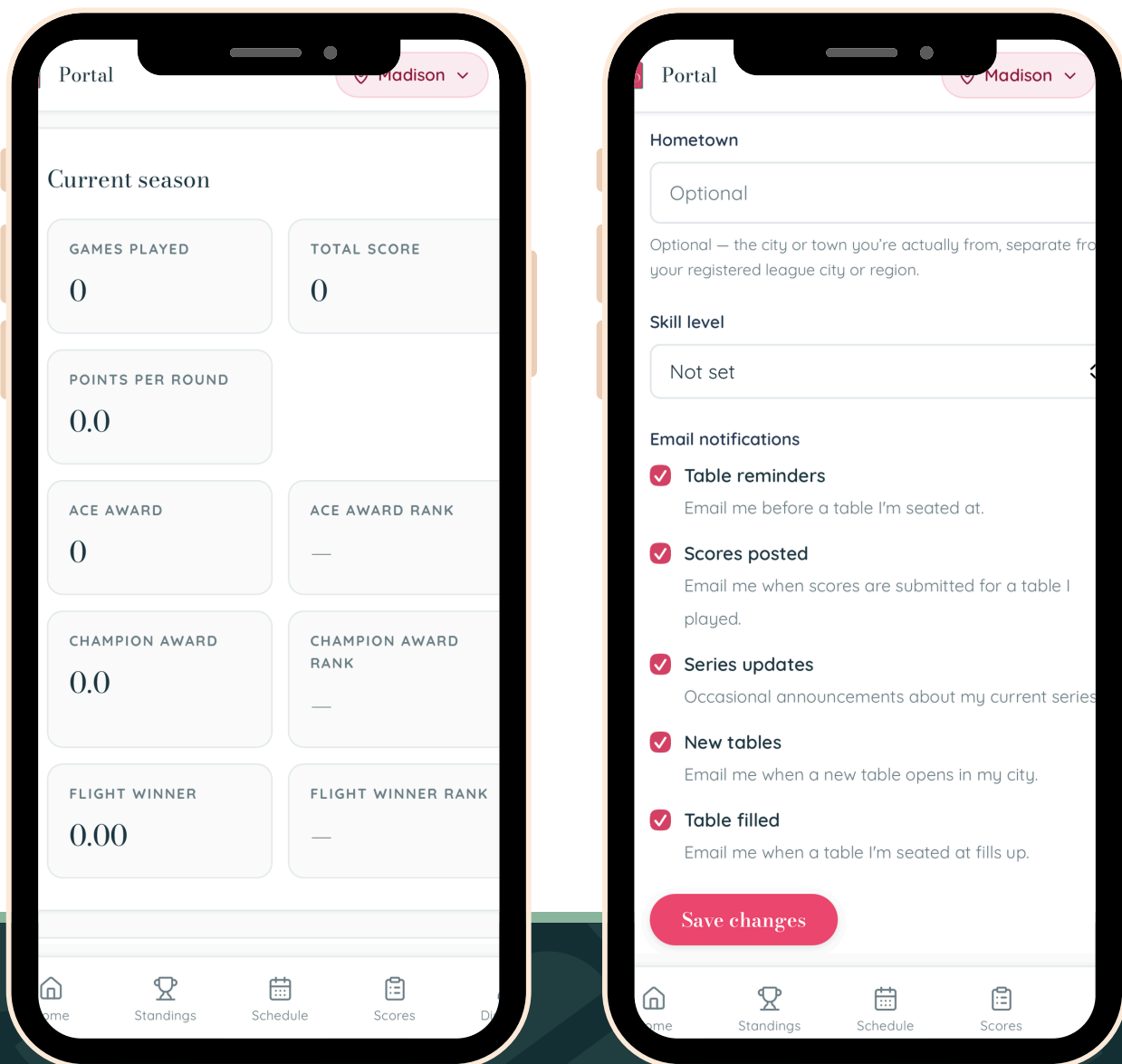
*Welcome to The Mahjong Open!*

# Using the Portal

Before joining a round, take a few minutes to review your player profile in the Mahjong Open Portal.

## YOUR PLAYER PROFILE

Your profile includes your contact information, skill level, notification preferences, playing statistics, completed rounds, league standings, all time stats. Please keep your information up to date so other members can easily connect with you.



# Using the Portal

## SELF RANK

When setting up your profile, you'll choose the self-rank that best matches your experience and comfort level.

- **Beginner** – You're learning the game, becoming familiar with the NMJL Playing Card, or simply enjoy a more relaxed pace of play.
- **Intermediate** – You have a good understanding of the game and the NMJL Playing Card and are continuing to build your confidence and strategy.
- **Advanced** – You're comfortable with all areas of the NMJL Playing Card, enjoy a quicker pace of play, and have significant playing experience.

Your self-rank is simply a guide to help other members understand your experience level. It is not a rating or a measure of skill, and you may update it at any time.

oto

**AS** Change photo

JPG, PNG, or WebP · up to 3 MB.

Name

Ava Sinclair

Skill level

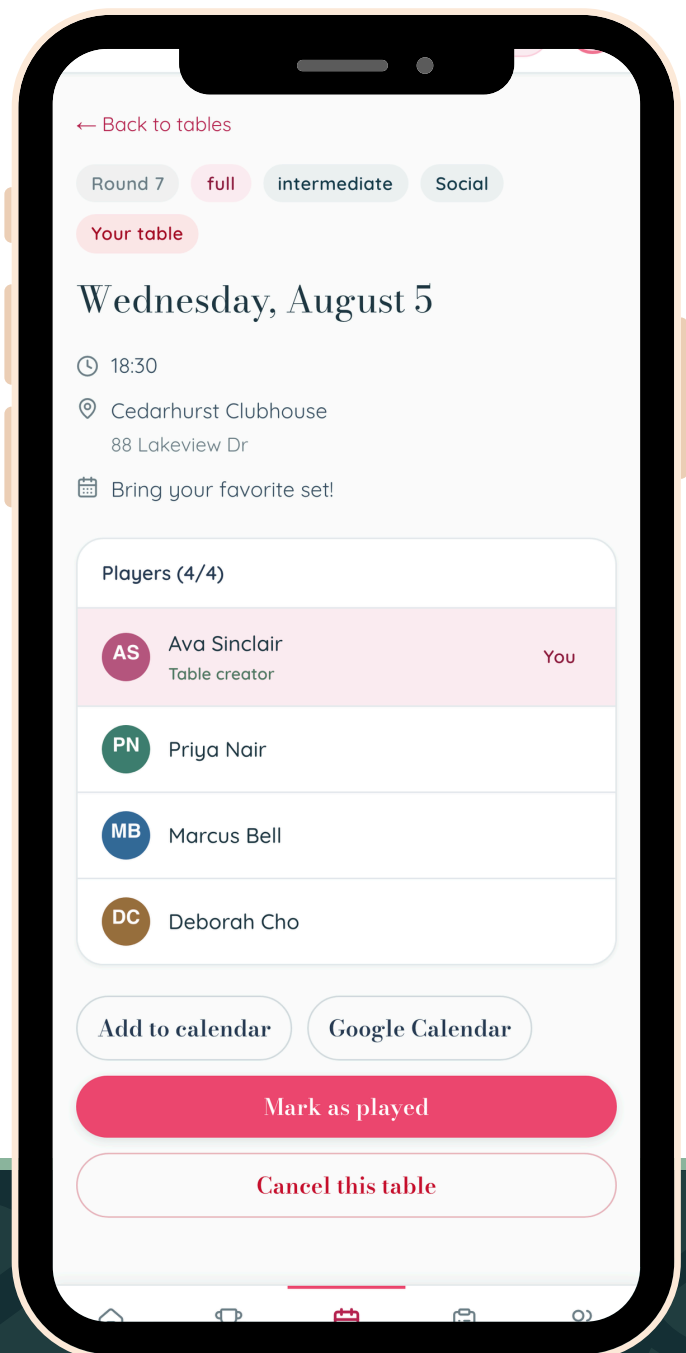
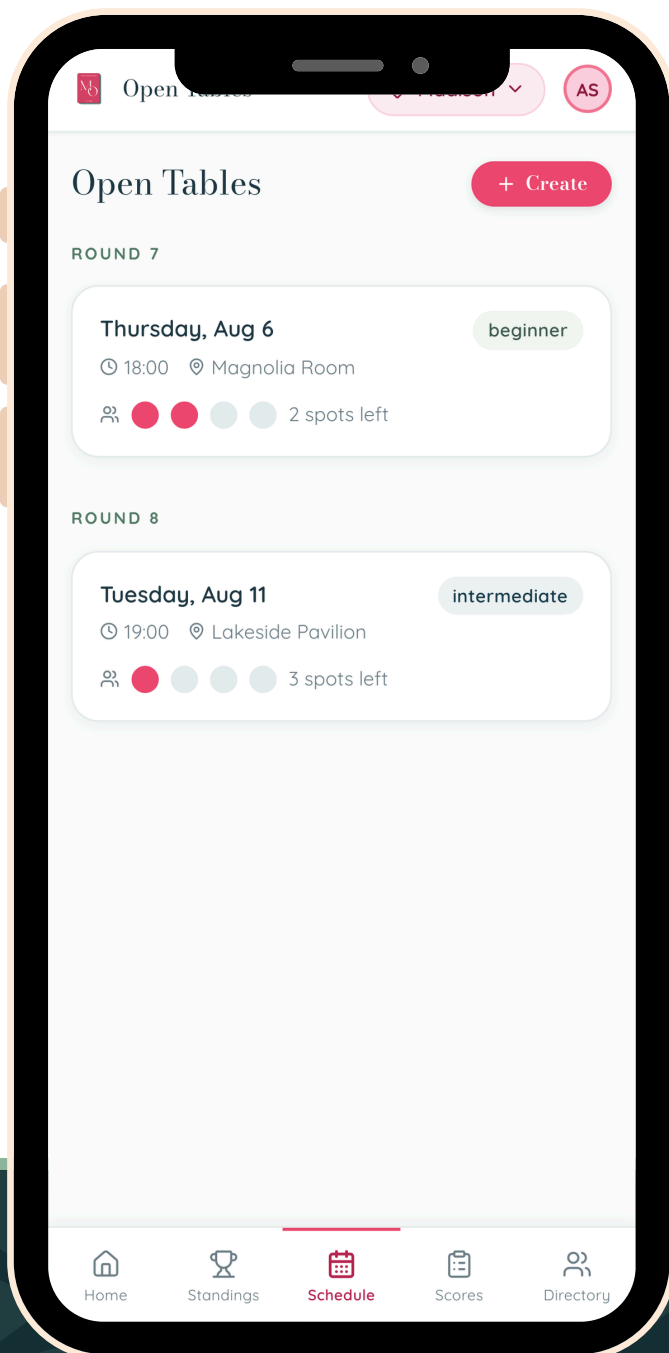
Advanced ▼

Email notifications

# Using the Portal

## JOINING A ROUND

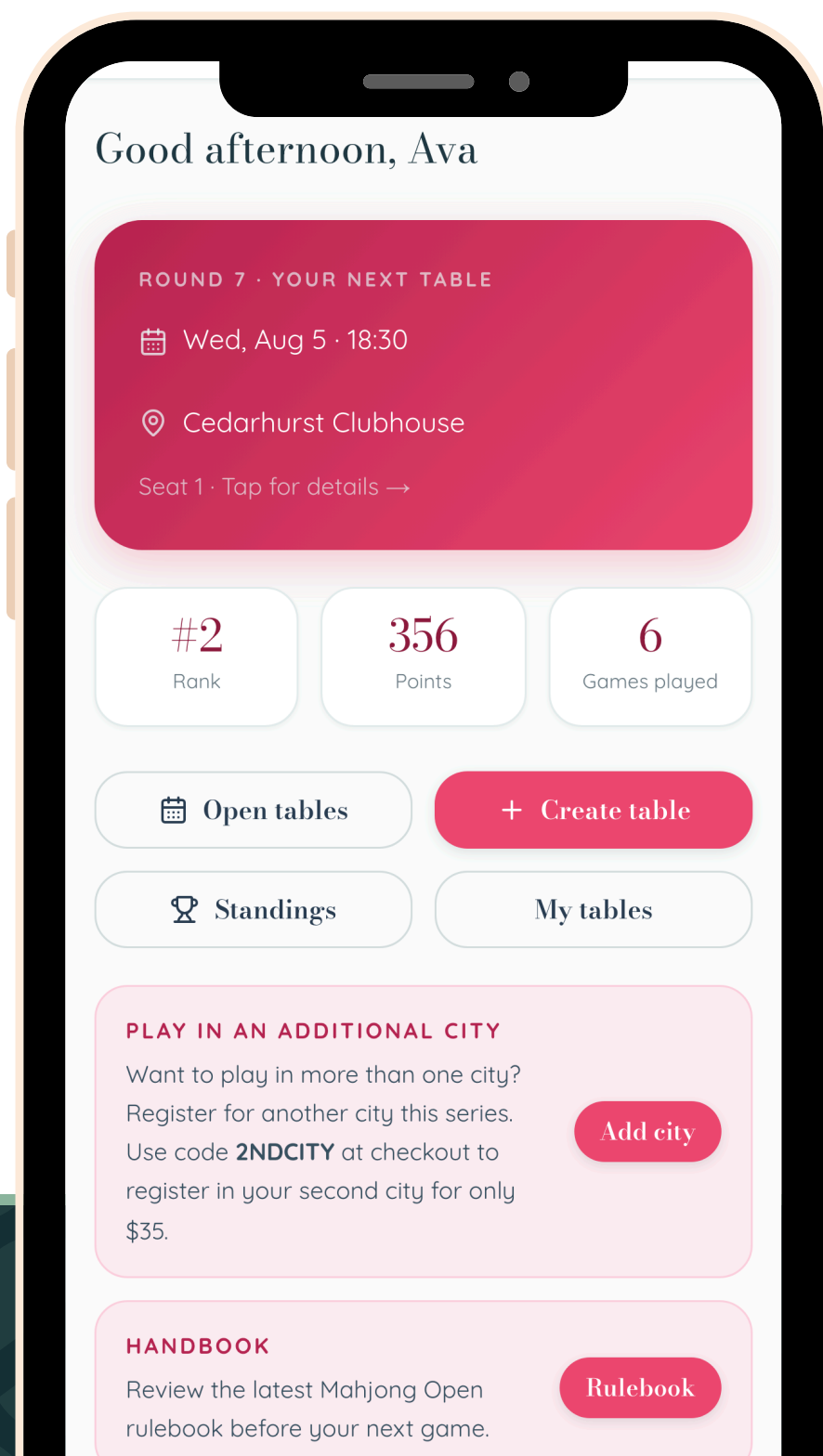
Browse available rounds in the Mahjong Open Portal and join any round that fits your schedule. When viewing available rounds, you'll be able to see the self-rank of the players who have already joined. This helps you decide whether a round is a good fit for you.



# Using the Portal

## HOSTING A ROUND

Don't see a round that works with your schedule? Host one! The more rounds available, the more opportunities everyone has to play.

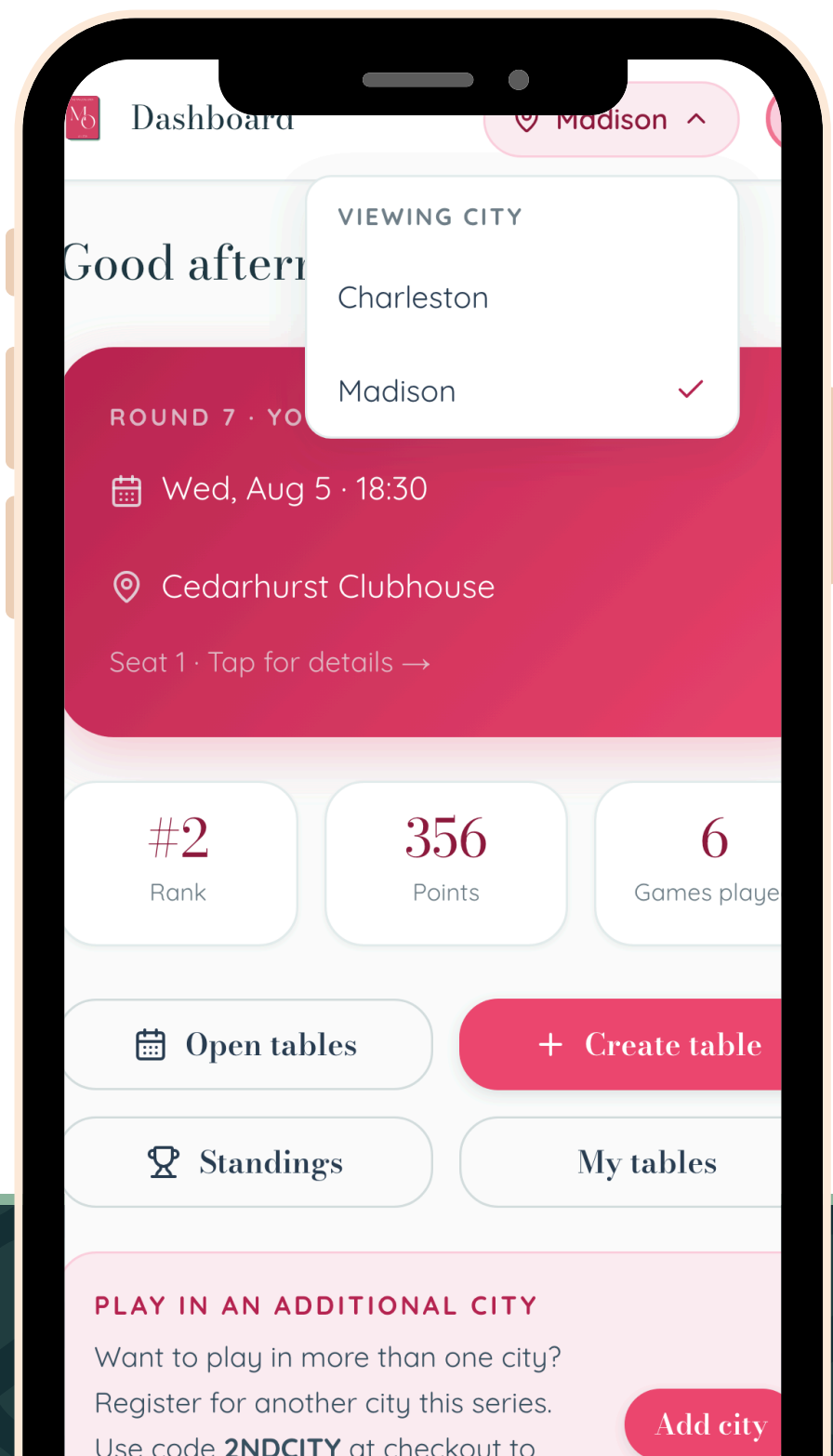




# Using the Portal

## MULTI CITY PLAYERS

Please use the city toggle in the top right of the portal to ensure you are joining tables and creating tables in the correct city.



# League Play

## OFFICIAL ROUNDS

An official round consists of:

- Four registered Mahjong Open members
- Four games of American Mahjong
- The current NMJL Playing Card
- Scores submitted through the Mahjong Open Portal

*Only official rounds count toward league standings and awards.*

## HOSTING A ROUND

Any member may host a round.

When creating a round in the Portal, you'll enter:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- The NMJL Playing Card being used (during the annual card transition period, if applicable)
- Round Type (Casual, Mindful, or Lightning)

As the host, you'll provide the Mahjong set, racks, dice, mat, and any other equipment needed for play unless otherwise decided.

# League Play

## JOINING A ROUND

Browse available rounds in the Portal and join any round that fits your schedule. Once four players have joined, the round is full.

If your plans change, please remove yourself from the round as soon as possible so another member has the opportunity to play.

## ROUND TYPES

### Casual

A relaxed pace with plenty of conversation, laughter, and time to enjoy the company around the table.

### Mindful

A quicker pace with limited conversation during active play. Great for players who want to sharpen their game and keep the rounds moving.

### Lightning

Fast-paced play with experienced players who are looking for an efficient, competitive round. Conversation is kept to a minimum until breaks between games.

**GOAL: 15 MINUTE ROUNDS**

# During the Round

To help every round run smoothly, please keep these simple guidelines in mind.

## FOUR PLAYERS

Official Mahjong Open rounds are played with four registered Mahjong Open members.

## NO 3 PLAYER ROUNDS ALLOWED

## CHOOSING EAST

At the beginning of the first game, each player rolls the dice. The player with the highest roll becomes East and begins the first game.

East rotates after each game so every player serves as East once during the round.

## THE NMJL PLAYING CARD

Official rounds are played using the current National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) Playing Card. During the annual card transition period, the Round Host will indicate which card will be used.

# During the Round

## EQUIPMENT

The Round Host provides:

- Mahjong tiles
- Racks
- Dice
- Playing mat
- Pushers (if used)

Each player is responsible for bringing their own current NMJL Playing Card.

## PACE OF PLAY

Please be mindful of the pace of play and the round type selected by the host. Whether you're playing a Casual, Mindful, or Lightning round, respect the expectations of the group and help create an enjoyable experience for everyone.

## CELL PHONES

Please keep cell phone use to a minimum during play.

# Scoring & Standings

Each official round you play earns points toward the league standings.

## SCORING

Your score for each game begins with the point value of your winning hand as listed on the current NMJL Playing Card. Bonus points are then added, if applicable.

## BONUS POINTS

- **Self-Picked Mahjong: +10 points** — Awarded when you draw your own winning tile.
- **Jokerless Mahjong: +25 points** — Awarded when your winning hand contains no jokers. (Not awarded for Singles & Pairs hands.)
- **Wall Game: +10 points** — Awarded to every player if no one declares Mahjong before the wall is exhausted. **This applies to only the hands not declared dead.**

## ENTERING SCORES

At the end of each round, the Round Host enters the scores into the Mahjong Open Portal.

Before leaving, all players should review the scores to ensure they are accurate.

Table

Round 6 — Jul 25 · The Tea Room

Round scores

Enter each player's total for the round (including any bonuses applied at the table), or mark a player as a no-show.

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Ava Sinclair | <input type="checkbox"/> No-show |
| Round score  | 0                                |
| Priya Nair   | <input type="checkbox"/> No-show |
| Round score  | 0                                |
| Marcus Bell  | <input type="checkbox"/> No-show |
| Round score  | 0                                |
| Deborah Cho  | <input type="checkbox"/> No-show |
| Round score  | 0                                |

Post scores

# Scoring & Standings

League Standings are determined by the following:

## ACE AWARD

Your Ace Award is the single highest round score you post during the current league. There's no minimum number of rounds to qualify — one great round is all it takes to reach the top of the board. Ties share the same rank, so more than one player can hold the #1 spot at the same time.

## CHAMPION AWARD

Your Champion Award is built week by week. Each week you play, your single highest round score that week counts toward your total. At the end of the current league, all 8 weeks are added together — no week is dropped. Any no-show penalties are subtracted from the total, even if they happened in a week that otherwise scored well. There's no minimum number of rounds to qualify. Ties are broken by total points scored across every round you've played.

**MADISON Standings**

Three leaderboards, updated live after each round is scored.

**Ace Award**

Your single highest round score this series.

| # | PLAYER  | SCORE | ROUNDS |
|---|---------|-------|--------|
| 1 | You     | 72    | 6      |
| 2 | Ava     | 64    | 6      |
| 3 | Priya   | 52    | 6      |
| 4 | Deborah | 46    | 6      |

**Champion Award**

Your single highest round each week, summed across all 8 weeks.

| # | PLAYER | SCORE | ROUNDS |
|---|--------|-------|--------|
| 1 | You    | 404.0 | 6      |
| 2 | Ava    | 356.0 | 6      |

Home Standings Schedule Scores Direct

# Scoring & Standings

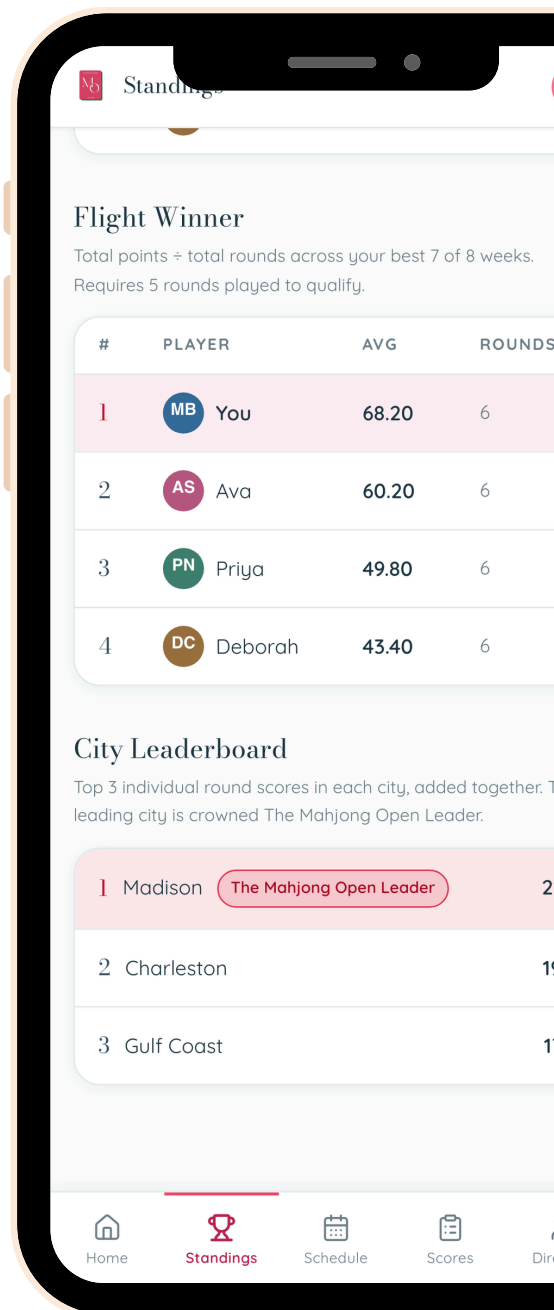
League Standings are determined by the following:

## FLIGHT WINNER

Your Flight Winner score rewards consistency. Each week, we total the points you scored and the rounds you played. Your one lowest-scoring week is set aside, and the rest — your best 7 of 8 weeks — are combined into a single points-per-round average. That average is your Flight Winner score. You need to have played at least 5 rounds across the series to qualify. Ties are broken by most rounds played, then by total points scored.

## CITY LEADERBOARD

Cities compete too. Each city's score is the sum of the three highest individual round scores posted by anyone registered there for the current league — even if the same player posted more than one of them. There's no minimum to qualify, and the city with the highest score is crowned The Mahjong Open Leader of the current league.



The image shows a smartphone screen displaying the 'Standings' app. The app has a dark theme with a bottom navigation bar containing icons for Home, Standings (active), Schedule, Scores, and Directories. The main content area is titled 'Standings' and features two sections: 'Flight Winner' and 'City Leaderboard'. The 'Flight Winner' section includes a table with columns for rank, player initials, name, average score, and rounds played. The 'City Leaderboard' section includes a table with columns for rank, city name, and score. The 'Flight Winner' table shows 'You' (MB) at rank 1 with an average of 68.20 and 6 rounds. The 'City Leaderboard' table shows 'Madison' at rank 1 with a score of 20, labeled 'The Mahjong Open Leader'.

| # | PLAYER     | AVG   | ROUNDS |
|---|------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | MB You     | 68.20 | 6      |
| 2 | AS Ava     | 60.20 | 6      |
| 3 | PN Priya   | 49.80 | 6      |
| 4 | DC Deborah | 43.40 | 6      |

| # | CITY       | SCORE |
|---|------------|-------|
| 1 | Madison    | 20    |
| 2 | Charleston | 15    |
| 3 | Gulf Coast | 10    |



# League Etiquette

The Mahjong Open is built on respect, sportsmanship, and having fun. Every member plays a part in creating a welcoming experience for others.

## BE ON TIME

Arrive a few minutes early so everyone is ready to begin at the scheduled time.

## COMMUNICATE

If you're running late or can't make a round, let the other players know as soon as possible. Life happens—we simply ask that you communicate.

## RESPECT YOUR HOST

If you're playing in someone's home or at a business, please respect the space, follow any house guidelines, and leave the playing area as you found it.

## WELCOME EVERYONE

Whether someone is brand new to Mahjong or has been playing for years, make everyone feel welcome.

## PLAY WITH INTEGRITY

Play honestly, keep accurate scores, and always show good sportsmanship.

## MOST OF ALL...

Have fun! The standings will change from league to league, but the friendships you build around the table can last a lifetime.

# League Policies

## NEED TO CANCEL?

If you need to cancel a round, please remove yourself from the Portal and notify the other players as soon as possible.

## LATE CANCELLATIONS

A late cancellation is cancelling within 24 hours of the scheduled start time.

If you cancel within 24 hours, you are responsible for finding a replacement player. If a replacement is not found, the No-Show Policy will apply.

## NO-SHOWS

A no-show occurs when a player fails to attend a scheduled round without notifying the other players, arrives more than 20 minutes after the scheduled start time, or cancels within 24 hours without securing a replacement player.

## NO-SHOW POLICY

- The no-show player receives a 20-point deduction (-20points).
- The remaining players will not be penalized. No scores will be entered for these players. This will NOT count as a round on the leaderboard.
- This policy applies to every no-show occurrence.
- Repeated no-shows will be reviewed by the City Commissioner and may be subject to additional action.

# League Policies

## SCORE SUBMISSION

The Round Host is responsible for entering scores into the Mahjong Open Portal. Before leaving, all players should verify that scores are correct.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Mahjong Open reserves the right to refuse, suspend, or terminate membership at its sole discretion when a member's conduct is determined to be inconsistent with the mission, values, or best interests of the league.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How often can I play?**

Play as often as you'd like! There is no limit to the number of official rounds you may play.

## **Do I have to host rounds?**

No. Hosting is optional, but it's a great way to create more playing opportunities for everyone.

## **Can I change my self-rank?**

Yes. You may update your self-rank at any time through your player profile.

## **What NMJL Playing Card is used?**

Official rounds are played using the current NMJL Playing Card. During the annual card transition period, the Round Host will indicate which card will be used.

## **How many rounds do I need to qualify for Flight Winner?**

You must complete at least 5 official rounds across the current league before your Flight Winner score appears on the leaderboard.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who enters the scores?

The Round Host enters the scores into the Mahjong Open Portal. All players should review the scores before leaving the round.

## What happens if I cancel within 24 hours?

You are responsible for finding a replacement player. If a replacement is not found, the No-Show Policy applies.

## What counts as a no-show?

Failing to attend a scheduled round, arriving more than 20 minutes late, or cancelling within 24 hours without finding a replacement player.

## Who do I contact if I have a question?

Please contact your City Commissioner for assistance with league questions or concerns or email us at [themahjongopen@gmail.com](mailto:themahjongopen@gmail.com).

## Where can I view my standings?

Current standings, statistics, upcoming rounds, and completed rounds are available in the Mahjong Open Portal.

# Quick Reference Guide

## The Mahjong Open at a Glance

Official rounds consist of 4 registered Mahjong Open members.

Each round includes 4 games of American Mahjong.

Play as often as you'd like throughout the current league.

Ace Award: your single highest round score of the current league. No minimum, ties share the top rank.

Champion Award: your single highest round score each week, summed across all 8 weeks — no week is dropped, no-show penalties subtracted.

Flight Winner: your best 7-of-8 weekly points-per-round average.  
Requires at least 5 rounds played to qualify.

City Leaderboard: your city's top 3 individual round scores, summed.  
Highest-scoring city is crowned The Mahjong Open Leader.

Self-Picked Mahjong: +10 points.

Jokerless Mahjong: +25 points (excluding Singles & Pairs hands).

Wall Game: +10 points.

Cancel within 24 hours? You are responsible for finding a replacement player or accepting the -20 no show penalty

More than 20 minutes late is considered a No-Show.

# Thank You!

Thank you for being a part of The Mahjong Open!

Whether you're joining your first round or your fiftieth, we're grateful you've chosen to spend your time with us.

We hope you meet new friends, improve your game, and enjoy every opportunity to gather around the table.

**Have a great league, and we'll see you at the next round!**

*the mahjong open team*