

2019 Blade & Soul World Championship Qualification Event

Official Rules

1.0 Event Description

The 2019 Blade & Soul World Championship Qualification Event (“**Qualification Event**”) is an in-game event for the game *Blade & Soul* (“**Game**”) that will determine the top 2 teams from the North American Region and the top 2 teams from the European Region that will be invited to compete in the 2019 Blade & Soul World Championship in South Korea (“**World Championship**”). In this Qualification Event, players will form and register as a 3-player team and play in Shackled Isles 3-player team mode to gain placement on the Qualification Season rankings list. The top 2 teams from each Region with the highest season rankings score, as determined by the combined scores of all 3 players on a registered team, will qualify to participate in the World Championship.

For the purpose of this Qualification Event, the **North American Region** means the following countries: Australia, the 50 United States of America, the District of Columbia, of all provinces and territories in Canada (excluding Quebec), and of the United States of Mexico; and the **European Region** means the following countries: member states of the European Union, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, and Israel.

Be sure to review these Official Rules for specific eligibility, registration, and other requirements. For any feedback or questions regarding the Qualification Event or the Official Rules, you can contact NCSOFT by sending an email to ncwbnsesports@ncsoft.com.

2.0 Schedule

- **Registration Period:** July 11, 2019 10AM Pacific Time (“PT”) - July 26, 2019 12PM PT
- **Qualification Season:** July 31, 2019 at the open of servers - August 21, 2019 at the close of servers
- **Winners Announcement Date:** August 28, 2019.
- **World Championship:** More details to come.

NCSOFT’s database clock will be the official timekeeper of this Qualification Event.

3.0 Eligibility

The Qualification Event is open to North American and European Region legal residents who are at the age of majority or older (18 years of age in most jurisdictions). Individuals must be a legal resident in one of the official countries in their specific Region, and all teams must be comprised of members from official countries in that Region. Individuals must have a valid passport that matches the country of citizenship or legal residence they identified during registration, be eligible to travel to South Korea, and otherwise provide proof of eligibility as reasonably requested by NCSOFT. For a list of the countries that comprise a specific Region, please refer to Section 1.0.

For German legal residents only: Legal residents of Germany have to be 18 years old or older to be eligible to participate in the Qualification Event.

Participants must register using an account that belongs to them (i.e., was originally created by the owner) that is in good standing. Any accounts that are owned by the player that have been banned from the game are prohibited from participating in any NCSOFT esports event for 1 year after the date of the ban.

Players must have valid NC Accounts during the entire Qualification Event. Players must also have at least one Level 55 character available and playable in their team's registered Region at the time of registration.

Noncompliance with any of the eligibility requirements or conditions of participation will result in disqualification.

4.0 Registration

4.1 Team and Team Member Registration

All teams and team members are required to register during the Registration Period. Teams must be composed of 3 eligible individual players. All members in a team must be eligible in and register for the same Region. Teams are not allowed to have any substitutions or roster replacements during the entire Qualification Event.

Each team member must register with their own created NC Account, have an NC Account in good standing (i.e., not had any of their owned accounts banned) as of the date of registration and Winners Announcement Date, have a level 55 character in the team's selected Region, and not already be a part of another team.

Teams can only be registered at bladeandsoul.com. Please review the registration page carefully and follow the instructions. Following the completion of registration, players will receive an email confirmation. All registrations are subject to review and the email confirmation is not a guarantee of eligibility.

The Championship Event is comprised entirely of teams. Incorrect or inaccurate entry of registration information may disqualify your team. For example, any team at the end of the Registration Period that has fewer than 3 registered team members will be disqualified from the Qualification Event, and any team that has a member registered in more than 1 team will be disqualified from the Qualification Event. Similarly, if any player on a team is deemed ineligible, the entire team will be disqualified.

4.2 Character Selection

As part of the registration process, all players will identify, from their list of characters available on their NC Account, the character they will use during the Qualification Event (and the character that will be tracked for Qualification Season ranking performance). Only level 55 characters or higher are eligible.

Once the Registration Period ends, you will not be able to change your character selection. If during the Registration Period, however, you desire to change the character you selected during registration, then you will need to email ncwbnsesports@ncsoft.com to notify NCSOFT of this request using the subject "REQUEST: CHARACTER CHANGE."

NCSOFT reserves the right to change or alter any character names that are considered to be in violation of the [Blade & Soul User Agreement](#). During registration, the registrant will be identifying the character they will be using during the event

4.3 Team Names

As part of the registration process, each team member will register the team name (“**Team Name**”) they will be joining. Each team member represents and warrants that the Team Name will be in compliance with the Code of Conduct (as set forth in Section 8 below) and will not violate or infringe upon the trademark, copyright, publicity rights or other intellectual property or other rights of any other person or entity.

NCSOFT reserves the right to change any Team Name that it determines, in its sole discretion, violates the Code of Conduct.

5.0 Qualification

During the Qualification Season, players will participate in Shackled Isles 3-player team mode and gain placement on the Qualification Season rankings list. The Qualification Season rankings will list individual player scores, not team scores. Players may play on any team throughout the Qualification Season, but in order for a registered team to remain eligible to participate in the Qualification Event, registered team members are required to play as a team in a minimum of 15 games during the Qualification Season.

At the end of the Qualification Season, the scores of each member on a registered team will be added together to determine a final team ranking. The top 2 ranking eligible teams from each Region will be invited to participate in the World Championship.

NCSOFT will arrange and pay for travel/accommodations to the World Championship. Winners may be required to furnish additional information for administrative purposes relating to NCSOFT’s operation of the World Championship. Players are responsible for obtaining any visas or other travel documentation required in order to compete in the World Championship, and all players participating in the World Championship will be required to read and agree to the World Championship Rules, a copy of which will be provided to such player.

Any cheating, as determined by NCSOFT in its sole discretion, will result in an immediate forfeiture and additional penalties depending on the severity of the infraction.

6.0 Winner Verification and Confirmation

The top 2 ranking eligible teams and corresponding team members from each Region (each referred to as a “winner”) will be notified by an NCSOFT representative between August 22 – 28, 2019. Winners may be required to furnish additional information, which will be used by NCSOFT for the sole purpose of administrating the Qualification Event. A team or any team member is not deemed a winner, even if the winning notification should so indicate, unless and until (i) the team and team member’s eligibility has been verified, (ii) all requirements to claim the prize money and participate in the World Championship have been fulfilled, and (iii) the player has been notified that the acceptance and verification process is complete. Failure to timely respond to the notification or provide information requested, a return of the notification as undeliverable, or noncompliance with these Official Rules will result in such potential winner being disqualified. NCSOFT will have no further obligation to that potential winner, and NCSOFT may, in its sole discretion, award or not award the forfeited placement and prize money to an alternate winner. Winners will be announced by NCSOFT no later than August 28, 2019. NCSOFT’s determination of the winners is binding and not subject to review or appeal.

7.0 Prizing

Up to USD\$3,000 will be awarded to each of the North American and European 1st place teams, and up to USD\$1,500 will be awarded to each of the North American and European 2nd place teams, in accordance with the chart below:

Standing	Prize Money per Team (USD)	Prize Money per Team Member (USD)
1 st	3,000	1,000
2 nd	1,500	500

Unless otherwise noted, prize money will be awarded to each team member within 90 days following the Winner Announcement date. Winners may be required to furnish additional information, which will be used by NCSOFT for the sole purpose of administrating the prize money.

All prizes will be awarded to the individual who is the authorized holder of the winning NC Account. If there is any restriction to receiving a prize in the country of a winner, an alternate prize may be provided. All federal, state, local and other tax liabilities (including income and withholding taxes) and any other costs and expenses associated with prize acceptance and use are the sole responsibility of the winner. Winners may waive their right to receive a prize.

8.0 Code of Conduct

All players are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and maintain respect for one another and for all event staff and spectators. If NCSOFT, in its sole discretion, determines that any player is behaving inappropriately, not competing in compliance with these Official Rules, or ignoring the instruction or warnings of an NCSOFT representative, such player may be immediately disqualified from the Qualification Event and/or forfeit all potential prizes. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The use of offensive or derogatory language, images, icons, names, or other prejudicial or bigoted behavior in all channels of communication including, but not limited to, character names and images, Team names and logos, apparel, live streams, chats;
- Harassment;
- Violence, including threats of violence or encouraging violence;
- Collusion;
- Cheating of any sorts, including using macros, logging into another person's account to inflate their in-game rankings (aka "boosting"), win-trading;
- Any other known or unknown manner of tampering with gameplay;
- Unsportsmanlike behavior, including intentionally delaying or slowing gameplay, intentionally using known bugs;
- Betting or gambling on your own performance, your team's performance, the results of Qualification Event or any tournaments within the Qualification Event; and
- Engaging in any activity or conduct that is considered by NCSOFT to be immoral, disgraceful, or inappropriate.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, NCSOFT may prohibit a player from participating in this Qualification Event or winning a prize, if in its sole discretion, it determines that such player has violated these Official Rules or Code of Conduct; is attempting to undermine the legitimate operation of this Qualification Event (or any portion thereof) by cheating, hacking, deception, or engaging in other unfair

practices; intending to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other players or NCSOFT representatives; or if player has or had attempted to submit malicious code, .exe files, or any file that contains malicious code.

9.0 Equipment & Game

Players are responsible for providing their own access to the internet and supply their own equipment needed to participate in the Qualification Event. Players are responsible for ensuring that their game client and any other software necessary to run the game client (e.g., operating system) are up-to-date.

During the World Championship, players may not bring, use, or wear any equipment other than those approved of or provided by NCSOFT or tournament organizer.

10.0 General Conditions

10.1 Publicity Grant

Except where prohibited by law, each winner's entry or acceptance of the prize constitutes permission for the NCSOFT to use, publish, and display the winner's name, voice, photograph, and other likeness and/or any biographical information the winner may provide, and any statement the winner may make concerning this Qualification Event or the prizes (the "**Player Information**"), in any and all media now known or hereafter discovered, worldwide and on the internet and/or the world wide web, in perpetuity, for promotional and marketing purposes, without notification, review, approval, or compensation. Player further agrees to permit NCSOFT the right to reproduce such Player Information in full or to crop or otherwise edit or modify for reproduction at NCSOFT's sole discretion.

For German legal residents only: Notwithstanding this Section 10.1, NCSOFT's rights to (1) collect Player Information; (2) to use, publish, or display Player Information as mentioned in this Section 10.1; or (3) to reproduce such Player Information in full or to crop or otherwise edit or modify for reproduction as mentioned in this Section 10.1, are subject to and depending on a separate agreement with each winner.

10.2 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

NCSOFT is not responsible for photosensitivity, epilepsy, or seizures associated with gameplay. Further, players assume all liability for any injury or damage caused, or claimed to be caused, by participation in this Qualification Event or use or redemption of any prize. NCSOFT will have no liability for any claim arising in connection with participation in this Qualification Event, or the acceptance or use of any prize. NCSOFT will have no responsibility for promotional materials that may be illegible, mutilated, altered, forged, duplicated or tampered with in any way, or for printing, typographical, mechanical or other errors or for any error in the notification or announcement of the winners and/or prize. In no event will NCSOFT be obligated to award more prizes than the number and amount of available prizes stated in these Official Rules. By participating, player releases NCSOFT from any claims arising out of any use or disclosure of an entry consistent with these Official Rules. Nothing in these Official Rules should be construed so as to limit or exclude liability for fraudulent misrepresentation.

BY ENTERING THE QUALIFICATION EVENT, PLAYER AGREES THAT TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW: (1) ANY AND ALL DISPUTES, CLAIMS, AND CAUSES OF ACTION ARISING OUT OF OR CONNECTED WITH THE QUALIFICATION EVENT, OR ANY PRIZE AWARDED, WILL BE RESOLVED INDIVIDUALLY, WITHOUT RESORT TO ANY FORM OF CLASS ACTION; (2) ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, JUDGMENTS, AND AWARDS WILL BE LIMITED TO ACTUAL THIRD-

PARTY, OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS INCURRED (IF ANY) NOT TO EXCEED USD ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), BUT IN NO EVENT WILL ATTORNEYS' FEES BE AWARDED OR RECOVERABLE; (3) UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ANY PLAYER BE PERMITTED TO OBTAIN ANY AWARD FOR, AND PLAYER HEREBY KNOWINGLY AND EXPRESSLY WAIVES ALL RIGHTS TO SEEK PUNITIVE, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES, LOST PROFITS AND/OR ANY OTHER DAMAGES, OTHER THAN ACTUAL OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES NOT TO EXCEED USD ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), AND/OR ANY RIGHTS TO HAVE DAMAGES MULTIPLIED OR OTHERWISE INCREASED; AND (4) PLAYERS' REMEDIES ARE LIMITED TO A CLAIM FOR MONEY DAMAGES (IF ANY) AND PLAYER IRREVOCABLY WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO SEEK INJUNCTIVE OR EQUITABLE RELIEF. SOME JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY.

For EU legal residents only:

- (iii) NCSOFT will be fully liable for intent and gross negligence as well as for damages caused by injury to life, body, or health caused by NCSOFT.
- (ii) In an event of slight negligence, NCSOFT shall be liable only for breaches of a material contractual obligation ("cardinal duty"). A cardinal duty in the meaning of this provision is an obligation whose fulfillment makes the implementation of this contract possible in the first place and on the fulfillment of which the contractual partner may therefore generally rely.
- (iii) In a case according to above clause (ii), NCSOFT shall not be liable for any lack of commercial success, lost profits, non-foreseeable damages, and indirect damages.
- (iv) Liability in accordance with the above clauses (ii) and (iii) shall be limited to the typical and foreseeable damages; however, the liability amount shall not exceed €10,000.
- (v) The limitation of liability shall apply mutatis mutandis to the benefit of the employees, agents and vicarious agents of NCSOFT.
- (vi) Any potential liability on the part of NCSOFT for any warranties and for claims based on the applicable Product Liability Act shall not be affected.

For German legal residents only: This Section 10.2 is replaced with the following wording:

For damages with respect to injury to health, body or life caused by NCSOFT, NCSOFT's representatives or NCSOFT's agents in the performance of the contractual obligations, NCSOFT is fully liable. NCSOFT is fully liable for damages caused willfully or by gross negligence by NCSOFT, NCSOFT's representatives, or NCSOFT's agents in the performance of the contractual obligations. The same applies to damages which result from the absence of a quality which was guaranteed by NCSOFT or to damages which result from malicious action. If damages, except for such cases covered by sentence 1, 2, 3 or 6 of this Section, with respect to a breach of a contractual core duty are caused by slight negligence, NCSOFT is liable only for the amount of the damage which was typically foreseeable. Contractual core duties, abstractly, are such duties whose accomplishment enables proper fulfillment of the Agreement in the first place and whose fulfillment a contractual party regularly may rely on. NCSOFT's liability based on the German Product Liability Act remains unaffected. Any further liability of NCSOFT is excluded. The limitation period for claims for damages against NCSOFT expires after 1 year, except for such cases covered by sentence 1, 2, 3 or 6 of this Section.

10.3 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

This Qualification Event is subject to all applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws. By participating, players agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of NCSOFT (including interpretations and enforcement of these Official Rules). Players also agree at all times, to release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless NCSOFT, its parent entities, subsidiaries, and affiliated companies, advertising and promotion agencies, broadcast affiliates, and all of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives and agents of each, from and against any claims, actions, demands, damages or liabilities of any kind whatsoever (including without limitation, attorney's fees, court costs, settlement and disbursements) due to any injuries, damages or losses to any person (including death) or property of any kind resulting in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from acceptance, redemption, possession, loss, misdirection, misuse or use of any prize or participation in any Qualification Event related activity or participation in this Qualification Event, including any claims relating to use, misappropriation or disclosure of any materials submitted herein.

If for any reason this Qualification Event (or any portion thereof) is not capable of running as planned, including, but not limited to, malfunction of kiosk or gaming components, infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, or any other causes beyond the reasonable control of NCSOFT, which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Qualification Event, then NCSOFT reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend this Qualification Event, except where prohibited by law. All decisions of NCSOFT are final in all matters relating to this Qualification Event.

For Australian legal residents only: Nothing in these conditions restricts, excludes or modifies or purports to restrict, exclude or modify any statutory consumer rights under any applicable law including the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth).

For German legal residents only: In sentence 2 of this Section 10.3 before the words "interpretations and enforcement of these Official Rules" the word "reasonable" is added.

10.4 FORCE MAJEURE

If for any reason this Qualification Event is not capable of running as planned, then NCSOFT reserves the right in NCSOFT's sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Qualification Event. NCSOFT will not be liable to any player, prize winner, or any other person for failure to supply a prize or any part thereof by reason of any act of God, any action, regulation, order or request by any governmental or quasi-governmental entity, equipment failure, terrorist acts, earthquake, war, fire, flood, explosion, severe weather, hurricane, embargo, labor dispute or strike, labor or material shortage, transportation interruption of any kind, work slow-down, civil disturbance, insurrection, riot or any similar or dissimilar event beyond their reasonable control.

For German legal residents only: This Section 10.4 is replaced with the following wording:

If for any reason this Qualification Event is not capable of running as planned, then NCSOFT reserves the right in NCSOFT's sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Qualification Event. NCSOFT will not be liable to any player, prize winner, or any other person for failure to perform a match, set, or series of the Qualification Event by reason of any act of God, any action, regulation, order or request by any governmental or quasi-governmental entity, terrorist acts, earthquake, war, fire, flood, explosion, severe weather, hurricane, embargo, labor dispute or strike, civil disturbance, insurrection, riot or any other event beyond their reasonable control.

10.5 CHOICE OF LAW

Any and all legal actions or claims arising in connection with this Qualification Event must be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in King County, State of Washington. Washington law, without reference to choice of law rules, governs the Qualification Event and all aspects related thereto.

For German legal residents only: This Section 10.5 is replaced with the following wording:

These Official Rules and the Qualification Event shall be governed by the laws of Germany without regard to the conflict of laws rules. The venue and jurisdiction for any and all disputes, claims and controversies arising from or relating to these Official Rules shall be the courts of Germany. The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods will not apply to the interpretation or enforcement of these Official Rules.

7.6 PRIVACY COLLECTION NOTICE

We collect certain personal information from you, including name, email, so that you may participate in the Qualification Event and for its administration. In some cases, we share this information with third parties involved in the administration of the Qualification Event. We may disclose your personal information overseas to affiliates or third party partners located in Europe, Korea, and the United States of America. If you do not provide us this information, you will be unable to participate in the Qualification Event.

Subject to some exceptions allowed by law, you may request access to, correction of, or deletion of your personal information while we store it. Under certain limited circumstances, you may also request we limit the processing of your personal information.

To make a request related to your personal information or learn more about your rights in relation to your personal information and details on the ways by which we collect, process, and store your personal information, please read our Privacy Policy at <https://us.ncsoft.com/en/legal/ncsoft/privacy-policy.php> or contact us at NCPrivacy@ncsoft.com.

7.7 ENGLISH VERSION PREVAILS

In the event of any conflict between the English version of these Official Rules and any translation, the English version shall prevail. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision herein shall not affect in any way the validity and enforceability of any other provision in these Official Rules.