

ARC WORLD TOUR 2024 Official Rules

December 16, 2024 Second Release

Arc System Works Co., Ltd.
ARC WORLD TOUR 2024 Administrative Office

These are the Official Rules (“Official Rules”) for “Arc World Tour 2024” (“AWT2024”), which consists of worldwide tournaments managed by Arc System Works Co., Ltd. (“ASW”)

Overview

AWT2024 is a tournament series for fighting games consisting of online and offline events held in various countries and regions throughout the world. The competition will include the three (3) titles below:

Granblue Fantasy Versus Rising (“GBVSR”)

Guilty Gear -Strive- (“GGST”)

UNDER NIGHT IN-BIRTH II Sys:Celes (“UNI2”)

Players selected based on their results in Qualifier Tournaments held internationally will earn a spot competing in the Finals to be held in Spring 2025 in the United States of America.

The above may be subject to change under certain circumstances, in accordance with the Official Rules.

Definitions

Qualifier Tournaments: Qualifier tournaments for AWT2024. Refer to the schedule on the Arc World Tour 2024 Official Web Site for details regarding each Qualifier Tournament.

(<https://www.arcsystemworks.jp/awt2024/>)

Qualifier Tournaments, excluding the Last Chance Qualifier Tournament (defined below) are divided into Platinum, Gold, and Silver tournaments.

Last Chance Qualifier Tournament: The final Qualifier Tournament held directly before the Finals, open to participation from any Player who has not qualified for the Finals (defined below) by that point..

Finals: An invitational tournament, currently scheduled to be held offline in 2025 in the USA, in which invited Players who were selected through the Qualifier Tournaments and Last Chance Qualifier Tournament will compete for Cash Prizes.

AWT2024 Tournament Group: All of the Qualifier Tournaments, Last Chance Qualifier Tournament and Finals.

AWT Administrative Office: Arc World Tour 2024 Administrative Office, comprised of staff from ASW, Cygames Co., Ltd., and associated companies who manage and run AWT2024.

Tournament Organizer: An organization or individual that organizes and operates all or part of the AWT2024 Tournament Group.

Tournament Staff: All individuals or organizations related to ASW and associated companies, in addition to Tournament Organizers.

Players: All participants in the AWT2024 Tournament Group.

Winners: Players invited to participate in the Finals.

Prizes: All cash prizes (“Cash Prizes”), travel and accommodation expenses, and other prizes of any nature awarded to or provided for Players.

Tour Points: Points granted to Players based on their results in Qualifier Tournaments.

Player Eligibility

The AWT2024 Tournament Group is open to Players, but void wherever restricted or prohibited by law. Players must meet the following requirements (“Eligibility Requirements”) to participate in the AWT2024 Tournament Group.

- Players must comply with the Rules.
- Employees, officers, directors, agents, representatives of any organization involved in the development of the AWT2024 Tournament Group, or any Game (including legal, promotion, and advertising agencies) and their immediate family members (defined as spouse, mother, father, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, grandparents and in-laws, regardless of where they live) and those living in their household (whether or not related), and each person or entity connected with the production or administration of the AWT2024 Tournament Group, and each parent company, affiliate, subsidiary, agent and representative of ASW are not eligible.
- Players may not enter the same qualifier tournament with multiple registrations.
- Players must have been born before April 27, 2011, to take part in the Finals. However, Players who are defined as Minors require approval from a legal guardian to take part in the Finals, on a form and through a process to be specified by ASW. ASW may, in its discretion, require Minors to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times during the Finals.
- Players: (a) will comply with all laws applicable to their Tournament-related activities; and (b) may not be antisocial forces (members or associate members of an organized crime group, persons who were members of an organized crime group within the last five (5) years, or racketeers).

Finals Qualifications

Players who fulfill the Eligibility Requirements earn participation rights in the Finals by fulfilling any of the conditions below.

- Placing first in a Platinum Qualifier Tournament.
- Having the highest number of total Tour Points, excluding Winners, as of the conclusion of the last Qualifier Tournament excluding the Last Chance Qualifier.
- Placing within the qualifying line in the Last Chance Qualifier.

The number of qualifying players via Platinum Qualifier Tournaments, highest point placement, and Last Chance Qualifier slots varies for each title. The number of

qualifying slots is subject to change without prior notice.

■List of Qualifying Slots per Title

	GBVSR	GGST	UNI2
Platinum Qualifier Tournament Slots	8	5	7
Tour Point Ranking Slots	7	10	0
Last Chance Qualifier Slots	1	1	1
Total Finals Qualifiers	16	16	8

Point System

To decide Player rankings, Tour Points will be awarded to top placing Players in Qualifier Tournaments throughout AWT2024.

Qualifier Tournaments are classified within three levels: Platinum Tournaments, Gold Tournaments, and Silver Tournaments. Tour Points are granted according to the level of the tournament for each placement as outlined below. Points are not granted for the Last Chance Qualifier.

UNI2 will not employ the Point System, and all Qualifier Tournaments are classified as Platinum Tournaments.

■Tour Point System Chart

Placement	Platinum	Gold	Silver
1 st Place	Finals Qualification	100 pts	45 pts
2 nd Place	100 pts	45 pts	20 pts
3 rd Place	45 pts	20 pts	12 pts
4 th Place	20 pts	12 pts	8 pts
5 th Place Tie	12 pts	8 pts	6 pts
7 th Place Tie	8 pts	6 pts	3 pts
9 th Place Tie	6 pts	-	-

The total Tour Points qualifying Player will be selected regardless of their country/region of residence, selected from the highest scoring players excluding those who have won Platinum Tournaments. In the event 2 or more Players have the same total Tour Points, the Player with the highest placement in a Platinum Tournament will be selected as higher in ranking.

In the event 2 or more Players have the same top placement in Platinum Tournaments, the player with the highest placement in a Gold tournament will be selected as higher in ranking.

In the event 2 or more Players have the same top placement in Gold Tournaments, the player who placed highest in a Platinum Tournament with the most participants will be selected as higher in ranking.

In the event multiple players placed highest in Tournaments with the same prize values and participant numbers, the AWT Administrative Office will determine how to make the final selection.

Finals Qualifications

If a Winner who has qualified for the Finals via winning a Platinum Tournament waives their right to participate, already qualified for an invitation, or does not meet the eligibility requirements, the Platinum Tournament winner slot for that Player in the Finals will go to the player in the same Platinum Tournament with the highest placement who has not yet qualified for the Finals.

However, for GBVSR and GGST, in the event the 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place Players in a Platinum Tournament waive their right to participate, already qualified for an invitation, or do not meet the eligibility requirements, that slot will be added to the Tour Point qualification slots. As UNI2 does not use the Point System, any vacancies created would be transferred to Players with the highest placing in the Last Chance Qualifier below second place.

If a Player who qualifies for Finals by Tour Point ranking waives their right to participate, already qualified for an invitation, or does not meet the eligibility requirements, their invitation will be transferred to the next highest ranking Player in terms of Tour Points.

This rule applies until February 03, 2025. In the event a player waives their right to participate after February 04, 2025, the finals slot will not be transferred. The AWT Administrative Office will determine how to fill the vacancy at their discretion.

In the event a Finals slot opens for any other reason, the AWT Administrative Office will determine whether or not to fill the vacancy and the method of selecting the Player at their discretion.

Promotional Rights

Each Player hereby: (a) grants ASW an irrevocable, sublicensable, perpetual, royalty-free, fully paid, non-exclusive, license throughout the universe to utilize the Player's name, image, voice and likeness, including without limitation footage of the Player's participation in the AWT2024 Tournament Group, in connection with its business, the promotion and advertising of its business, and any other lawful purposes, in all media now known or hereafter devised including X, Instagram and other social media posts as well as streaming on YouTube and Twitch; (b) waives any right to notice, inspection or approval of any ASW use of the foregoing materials; and (c) releases ASW, its affiliates, contractors, subcontractors, sublicensees, and suppliers from any claim or liability related to ASW's use of the foregoing materials. For purposes of illustration but not limitation, ASW and its authorized Tournament Organizers may record, videotape, and photograph Players, edit, adapt, post, stream, reproduce, display, perform, transmit, broadcast, or otherwise use Player likenesses, whether alone or with others, in part or in its entirety, alone or in combination with other material.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Player has a management contract or other legally binding agreement with a third party at the time of their participation in the AWT2024 Tournament Group that restricts use of their likeness, the Player shall give notice to ASW in advance and grant ASW the written right to use such likeness within the scope of the restrictions. If a Player has any restrictions on their likeness but does not give the foregoing advance notice, ASW will treat such likeness as unrestricted and will not be liable to any Player or for any resulting violation or infringement of third party rights. Player will indemnify and hold harmless ASW from any such Player and/or third party

liability.

Code of Conduct

A Player will be immediately disqualified from the AWT2024 Tournament Group and forfeit the right to receive a Prize in the sole discretion of ASW or a Tournament Organizer in the cases described below. ASW reserves the right to prohibit the participation of offending Players in future ASW events in its sole discretion.

- Violations of state, Federal and/or Tournament COVID safety guidelines and/or protocols;
- Swearing, screaming or threats;
- Harassment (as defined below) or intimidation of any other Player, tournament personnel or spectator, either in person or through any online channels;
- Physical or cyberviolence;
- Collusion;
- Cheating of any sort through any means, whether currently known or unknown, which may include, without limitation, use of external software that directly tampers with the game software to gain any kind of advantage or to create a disadvantage to other Players in the game, MOD and tampering game software by the use of a tampering patch;
- Interference with any infrastructure for the Tournament, including gaming equipment/hardware, game servers (including the misuse or hacking of game servers) or facilities provided for the Tournament;
- Intentionally delaying, slowing or manipulating gameplay;
- Intentionally disconnecting network cables or attempting to interfere with another Player's connection to the game service through Distributed Denial of Service ("DDoS") or any other means;
- Intentionally interrupting network connectivity;
- Disobeying or showing noticeable or disruptive dissent at the reasonable instructions or requests of ASW or a Tournament Organizer or tournament personnel, or failure to comply with these Official Rules, or the official tournament rules below ("Tournament Rules");
- Players will adhere to all health and safety protocols outlined by Tournament Organizers or within Player agreements for the duration of an event when applicable. Posting violations to social media will result in immediate expulsion from the Tournament and a forfeiture of Prizes, if applicable;
- Any other known or unknown manner of tampering with gameplay;
- Personal conduct, whether inside or outside of the Tournament, that, in ASW's sole discretion, reflects or may reflect badly on the Games' communities or on ASW, including communications on social media;
- Players may not share, repost, screen share or stream any communications between any Player and any Tournament Organizer, and/or ASW staff. This includes but is not limited to (a) emails, voicemails and direct messages on social platforms and communications services, and/or (b) disclosing or screen sharing any communications with ASW staff and/or any Tournament Organizer in any Player stream. Players streaming their participation in a Tournament

are strongly encouraged to utilize separate internet connections for the stream and the Game;

- Providing false entry information; and
- Any other conduct deemed offensive or inappropriate, in ASW's sole discretion.

“Harassment” includes but is not limited to: (a) threats of physical violence, (b) insults related to any Game, Player, event personnel or event attendee, (c) offensive statements or actions related to gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, and/or religion; (d) sexual images in public spaces, (e) deliberate intimidation including but not limited to stalking or following, (f) harassing photography or recording, (g) sustained disruption of talks or other events, and (h) inappropriate physical contact and unwelcome sexual attention. Harassment should be reported to the ASW Esports team immediately.

Insults are punishable (i) whenever they are made, including but not limited to insults made during tournament matches, and (j) whether they are made in-person and/or electronically, including but not limited to text messages, blog postings and/or social media.

Release of Claims and Limitation of Liability

ASW and Tournament Organizers cannot be held responsible for the following.

- The accuracy, completeness, and usefulness of information provided with respect to AWT2024, including without limitation any printing, typographical, administrative, or technological errors in any related materials;
- Delays or other problems caused by malfunctions of servers, network lines, internet, wireless system, telephone system, telephone, or computer hardware, software, or other technical or computer malfunctions, lost connections, disconnections, delays or transmission errors;
- Damage to or loss of the life, body, or property of Players caused by their participation in AWT2024; and
- Liability or loss caused by an act of a third party, such as infection by a computer virus.

ASW reserves the right to postpone, cancel or suspend all or part of the AWT2024 Tournament events, including without limitation Qualifier Tournament and Final dates due to circumstances beyond its control, including without limitation natural disasters, acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist acts, computer virus infection, bugs, interference, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, epidemics and pandemics, including without limitation the COVID pandemic (collectively “Force Majeure Events”). ASW will not be liable to any Player for the failure to perform its obligations related to the Tournament due to a Force Majeure Event or any damage suffered by a Player rising from such failure.

If the AWT2024 Tournament Group, in whole or in part, fails to proceed as planned, ASW or the Tournament organizers reserve the right to redo, cancel, terminate, modify, or postpone the AWT2024 Tournament Group or any match, in whole or in part, in their discretion.

If ASW or a Tournament Organizer determines, in their sole discretion, that an individual game, a match, or the AWT2024 Tournament Group has been disrupted, or

the legitimacy of a game, a match, or the progress of the Tournament has been compromised for any reason, ASW or the Tournament organizer can remove that game or match and proceed with the Tournament on the basis of the remaining games, matches, or progress of the Tournament.

Players shall be solely responsible for completely resolving, at their own expense, any problems or disputes among Players or with third parties arising from or in connection with their participation in the AWT2024 Tournament Group, and neither ASW nor the Tournament organizers guarantee that any Player will be compensated for any damages related to such disputes.

Revision and Amendment of Official Rules

ASW reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revise, update, alter, modify, add to, supplement, or delete the Official Rules. Such changes will be effective with advance notice on the official AWT2024 website. The latest version of the Official Rules shall be posted on the official AWT2024 website.

Prizes

The total in Cash Prizes for Finals is two hundred fifty thousand dollars (250,000 USD). The Winners will be provided with Cash Prizes as follows.

■ Breakdown of Cash Prizes for Finals Unit: USD

Placement	GBVSR	GGST	UNI2
1 st Place	50,000	50,000	25,000
2 nd Place	20,000	20,000	10,000
3 rd Place	10,000	10,000	5,000
4 th Place	5,000	5,000	3,000
5 th Place Tie	2,500	2,500	2,000
7 th Place Tie	1,500	1,500	1,500
9 th Place Tie	1,000	1,000	-
13 th Place Tie	750	750	-

Cash prizes are subject to change based upon the country in which tax withholding occurs. In addition, all Winners shall receive a Trip to Finals from ASW. Receipt of any Prize is contingent upon the Player's compliance with all of these Official Rules, as well as any Prize-related third-party provider requirements, including but not limited to age requirements for travel and hotel accommodations. Prizes are subject to change based on current market conditions at time of Prize fulfillment, the date and time of travel, and the distance between Winner departure location and the Finals location.

Winners must possess valid travel documents, including without limitation all documentation necessary to legally enter into the United States of America, including without limitation all COVID-related testing documents, in time to be admitted to the United States of America and arrive on schedule in California, USA in accordance with these Official Rules. All winners will provide ASW with legal documentation of the foregoing COVID documents immediately upon request. ASW reserves the right to substitute ground transportation in lieu of air transportation if the Winner resides within one hundred (100) miles of the Finals location.

Prize Eligibility

Each Player that has been declared the winner of a Prize in the AWT2024 Tournament Group will not be an official Prize winner unless and until they execute (or, if the potential winner is a Minor, their parent or legal guardian executes) an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability Release, and where legal, a Publicity Release and any required payment information and tax forms (“Winner Forms”) in order to receive payment.

Prize Payment Method

A Player (or a Minor Player’s parent or legal guardian) must sign and return all the Winner Forms within ten (10) days after receiving them.

If a Player is disqualified, ASW reserves the right, but has no obligation, to award the affected Prize to the Player that last lost to the disqualified Player. Within thirty (30) days of receiving an executed copy of the Winner Forms, ASW will deliver the applicable Prize(s) to the Winner. Refusal to take delivery of any Prize may result in forfeiture, and ASW may award such Prize to an alternate Winner. Prizes will not be paid, transferred or assigned by ASW until after a Winner has complied with all his or her obligations under these Official Rules. ASW reserves the right to substitute a Prize in whole or in part with another Prize of comparable or greater value if the intended Prize is not available for any reason as determined by ASW in its sole discretion. ASW has not and will not obtain or provide insurance of any kind relating to the Prizes.

Winners will be responsible for all taxes (including but not limited to federal, state, local and/or income) on any Prize won and on the value of any items or value transferred to the Player by ASW and will be required to provide their Social Security number, IRS Form W8BEN, IRS Form W9, or equivalent information for tax reporting purposes (at a time to be determined in ASW, and which may be prior to participation in a particular round or prior to receipt of any Prize by Player). ASW will file an IRS Form 1099 or equivalent tax withholding documentation for the retail value of any Prize or other items of value transferred to the Player by ASW in accordance with IRS requirements, and ASW may also share such documentation with a state or local government agency as required by law.

Governing Law; Dispute Resolution

All issues and questions concerning these Official Rules shall be governed by and construed in accordance with Japanese law without reference to conflicts of law provisions.

Any dispute arising under or relating to these Official Rules or Player’s relationship with ASW shall be finally settled by binding arbitration between Player and ASW, or Player’s parent or legal guardian if Player is a Minor, and Player and ASW agree to attempt in good faith to resolve any dispute before commencing arbitration. Unless Player and ASW otherwise agree in writing, the time for informal negotiation will be sixty (60) days from the date on which Player or ASW provides written notice of the dispute. Players and ASW agree that neither will commence arbitration before the end of the time for informal negotiation.

If informal negotiations are unsuccessful, the arbitration shall be resolved in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association, with the place of arbitration being Tokyo, Japan. Notwithstanding any provision of applicable law to the contrary, the arbitrator does not have authority to give a ruling in conflict with these Rules. The arbitrator’s ruling shall be put in writing, be binding to both parties, and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction.

PLAYER, AND PLAYER'S PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIAN IF PLAYER IS A MINOR, UNDERSTAND AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BY AGREEING TO BINDING ARBITRATION, PLAYERS ARE GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO LITIGATE (OR PARTICIPATE IN AS A PARTY OR CLASS MEMBER) ANY AND ALL DISPUTES IN COURT BEFORE A JUDGE OR JURY. INSTEAD, PLAYER, AND PLAYER'S PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIAN, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT ALL DISPUTES WILL BE RESOLVED BEFORE A NEUTRAL ARBITRATOR, WHOSE AWARD (DECISION) WILL BE BINDING AND FINAL. ANY COURT WITH JURISDICTION OVER THE PARTIES MAY ENFORCE THE ARBITRATOR'S AWARD.

Player further understands that, in some instances, the costs of arbitration could exceed the costs of litigation. Further, all parties understand that the right to discovery may be more limited in arbitration than in court. Neither Player nor ASW will participate in a class action or class-wide arbitration for any claims arising under or related to these Official Rules, the Tournament, or Player's relationship with ASW. If the prohibition against class actions above is found to be unenforceable, then all of the preceding language in this section will be null and void with respect to Player.

Notwithstanding the parties' decision to resolve all disputes through arbitration, either party may bring an action in the district court of Tokyo that only asserts claims for patent infringement or invalidity, copyright infringement, moral rights violations, trademark infringement, and/or trade secret misappropriation.

This section will survive the termination of Player's participation in the Tournament.

Privacy Policy

Players must consent to the ASW Privacy Policy; it may be accessed here:
<https://www.arcsystemworks.jp/portal/privacy/en/>