Payouts, Pools, and Payoffs

Several people have asked how payouts, pools, and payoffs are calculated. They don’t understand them so don’t enter the side pools in tourneys. I have written this short guide to help them understand how they all work. They work the same way for the Main and the Consy tourneys.

We will use the example of 58 players entered into the Main qualifying tourney.

## Tourney Payout:

All entrants pay an Entry Fee to enter the qualifying tournament. 25% of the players qualify for the knock-out playoff stage. The size of the prize pool is Number of Entrants x Entry Fee. The expenses incurred to run the tourney – food, drinks, hall, trophies are deducted to arrive at the prize pool.

The number of qualifiers is rounded up to the next multiple of 4 – with 58 entrants there will be 15 qualifiers (60 / 4). These 15 people will go on to knock-out play-off stage. Each receives a tourney payout from the prize pool. In our example, the winner will receive 25.2% of the prize pool. The bottom seven players in the playoffs who get knocked out in the early playoff rounds will each receive 2.7% of the prize pool. As a rule-of-thumb the aim is to have those that qualify but get knocked out early receive their entry fee back.

All payouts are rounded down to the nearest dollar.

## Equal or EQ Pools:

All side pools are voluntary; nobody is required to participate in them. As their name implies, all EQ pool prize winners receive and equal share.

The prize pool for an EQ Pool is Number or Participants x Pool Entry Fee. To receive an EQ Pool payoff the player must enter the EQ Pool and must also qualify for the playoffs.

In our example assume 45 players entered the $10 EQ pool – yielding a prize pool of $450. Further, let’s assume that of the 15 players who qualified just twelve participated in the EQ pool. These twelve would each receive and equal payoff of $450/12 or $37, rounded down to the nearest dollar. The other three qualifiers who were not in the EQ Pool would not receive any EQ side pool money.

## Graduated Pools:

As their name implies, the payoffs are not equal. Typical pools pay 1:6, 1:8, sometimes 1:10. In Napa we offer 1:6 graduated pools.

Who gets paid, and how much? For a 1:6 pool, the top 1/6th players in the pool ranked by their order of finishing in the tourney qualifying round will receive a payoff. They do not need to qualify for the playoffs to be paid. The number of winners is rounded up to the nearest number divisible by 6.

Assume in our example 23 players entered the 1:6 $20 Grad Pool. The top 4 players would receive a payoff. The prize pool is $460; the top four players would receive $190, $130, $90, and $50 according to the order of finishing. The payoff spread is left to the discretion of the tourney directors.

## Summary:

All side pools are voluntary. Main and Consy payouts and pools operate the same way.