

Mah Jong With Meaning FAQ's

What time does the tournament start?

Doors open at 9:15. From 9:15-9:45 you will be able to check in for the day, grab a bite to eat, get a cup of coffee, and take a first look at the mah jong museum. From 9:45-10:00 our Tournament Director will cover rules of play and we will begin playing Round One promptly at 10:00 am.

Will there be parking available?

We will have a very limited number of reserved parking spaces available in the city parking lot across the street from Piedmont Community Church. There will be a volunteer stationed at the parking lot entrance day-of to assist you.

Is lunch included?

Yes. Your registration includes lunch, continental breakfast and beverages.

How much is the tournament?

\$55

What is the money raised from the tournament going for?

Your tournament registration is used to support The Children's Support League of the East Bay and also The Strive for Change Foundation. These organizations are all volunteer groups here in the Bay Area that serve at-risk children and the working poor. Over 90% of all monies raised at last years tournament went to these two non-profit groups. Not only are you having fun at the tournament but your participation also helps those in need in our community.

I want to come but don't know if I'm ready for a tournament. Can I still play?

Of course! If you don't think that you will be able to keep up with the pace of tournament play we also have the option of "Social Play". You will still be assigned to a table and play 4 rounds of mahjong however you will not be pressured to get through 4 games in every hour. You and your table mates will go at your own pace and play as many games in an hour as you can get through.

Are there prizes for the top finishers?

We will have cash prizes for the top three finishers in the tournament. Plus we will also have cash prizes for several 'Bonus Hands' that can be won whether you play the Tournament or Social option.

What if I sign up for Tournament play and want to switch to Social play? Or signed up for Social play and want to jump into the Tournament play instead?

You can do this as long as you notify us by Thursday, Sept. 22nd. After that date we will not be able to honor requests for change of play as the table assignments will be set.

When will final tournament information get to me?

When you register you will receive a confirmation email that your registration has been received. The week of the tournament you will receive all final details regarding the tournament including directions, who will be bringing a set to play with, tournament day schedule, etc.

I have a friend who would love to play but didn't register in time. Can I bring her day of?

We always need volunteers the day of the Tournament and would love your friends help. However we won't be able to get her into the Tournament at the last minute.

Is there handicap access at the Tournament location?

Yes. The main courtyard entrance to the church sanctuary has been renovated to include a wheelchair ramp. There is one handicapped parking space on Highland Avenue at the end of the sidewalk (across the street from the Citibank & Mulberry's Market). Also note that anyone who has trouble walking may be dropped off and picked up at the bottom of the driveway in the church parking lot of Craig Ave. To reach this entrance from the light at Oakland Ave., turn right onto Highland Ave., then take an immediate left onto Craig Ave. After one half block turn right down the unmarked driveway just past the yellow children playing sign. The sidewalk will be on your left; the sanctuary's side entrance is then accessible down the path that turns sharply to the left and then to the right past the doorkeeper's cottage, or one may reach the front entrance by following the sidewalk straight ahead to the breezeway on your left which leads to the church courtyard. We regret that non-staff member cars may not be left in the staff lot.

Who should I contact if I still have questions?

We would be happy to answer any questions you might still have. Please feel free to contact Debra Constantine or Stacy Mattson at mahjongwithmeaning@yahoo.com and we will be sure to get right back to you.