

MICROSOFT EXCEL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

PLAYER INFORMATION PACK Qualification Round

Congratulations on signing up for the Microsoft Excel World Championship 2023 (hereinafter abbreviated as MEWC)! It will be an exciting event that will allow you to showcase your Excel skills, get recognized worldwide, learn some new tricks and, hopefully, win prize money!

To make your journey through the competition easier, we have prepared this information package for you. This is a supplement to the Competition Rules (and we advise you to read the full rules carefully too).

Dates

MEWC will take place from October 7 until December 9, 2023.

- October 6 - Sign-up closes at 8:00 AM London time (UTC+1, keep in mind that this is an early morning for most of the players!). If you haven't already registered, we suggest you do it in a timely manner.
- October 7 - Qualification Round
- October 28 - Last 128 & Last 64 Round
- November 2 - Last 32 & Last 16 Round
- December 7-9 – The Active Cell training camp and conference in Las Vegas
- December 8 – Last Chance Qualification Round
- December 9 – Elimination Round, QF, SF and Finals.

Tournament Brackets

There are 128 player spots in the Main Draw (playoff-type brackets). Clearly, there will be many more participants signed up for MEWC, therefore various types of qualification routes are offered to the participants. The 128 spots in the tournament's main draw will be split as follows (see also the infographics below):

- 60 spots (or more*) to the winners of the Qualification Round
- 45 spots to the winners of "Road to Las Vegas" monthly qualification battles
- 16 spots to the leaders of FMWC regular season
- 4 spots to the leaders of FMWC regular season in the U-25 age group
- 3 wildcards will be awarded by the organizers

*It is expected that some of the players will qualify through being both a winner of a monthly qualification battle and a top-16 player in the regular tournament. All such vacant spots will go towards the winners of the Qualification Round.



Qualification Round

This is the Round when everybody who applies has a chance to get into the Main Draw.

The Qualification Round is split into 2 sessions - one at 8 AM London Time UTC+1 (Asia/Pacific region) and the other at 5 PM London Time UTC+1 (all other regions). This is done to accommodate participants from different time zones. Remember, you need to take part in only one session that corresponds to your region.

Upon registering, in your FMWC profile, you indicated your country of origin, which we used to assign a region that you are a part of. If not sure, please check the list of countries and their respective regions [here](#).

The places for the winners of the Qualification Round will be split by regions based on the number of sign-ups from each region. Last year the split was as follows: Europe – 38%, North America – 37%, Asia/Pacific – 17%, Latin/South America – 4%, Africa – 4%. This year the exact split will be announced on the day of the Qualification Round after the sign-up for MEWC is closed.

This split is based on the number of signups from each continent. This means that the competition in Europe will be as stiff as in Africa – it's the same number of players per place in the main draw.

The qualification takes place at the regional level – you must be one of the best in your region to qualify and you shouldn't care about player scores on other continents. One of the reasons for this approach is that we have 2 sessions with different cases, and we want the results to be comparable.

Those few players who have qualified through the “Road to Las Vegas” or FMWC regular season will be informed separately. These players do not have to compete in the Qualification Round, but we know that some of them might do the cases just for fun/training.

Competing in the Qualification Round

- All case details, rules and initial data will be provided in an Excel file available for download on the examination platform. You will need to complete the Excel model, answer questions on the examination platform and upload your model for submission. Please note that points will not be counted if you don't provide the correct answers on the examination platform.
- The case format will be similar to the last year's Qualification Round of Microsoft Excel World Championship 2022:
 - there will be 5 levels of varying difficulty for a total of 100 questions.
 - The levels will not be linked to each other (i.e. you are not required to solve Level 1 before getting to Level 5).
 - The cases for both sessions will be different.
- In case of a tie the players will be ranked based on (according to MEWC Rules):
 - Less time spent (so it's beneficial to submit your work and close the session on the testing platform earlier)
 - More points scored in the most recent “Road to Las Vegas” battle
 - Higher rank in FMWC regular championship 2023
 - If all of the above-mentioned points are identical, the player who registered for MEWC earlier will be ranked higher.

Detailed instructions on how to use the testing platform will be provided closer to the competition date.

Qualification Round Livestream

On Saturday, October 7, 6:00 PM London time, we will start the livestream of the Qualification Round on [FMWC YouTube channel](#). We will invite 4 players who have already qualified into the Main Draw through the “Road-to-Las Vegas” battles. Those

players will be solving live the cases from the Qualification Round and use this as a warm-up opportunity for the tournament.

By the time the stream starts, all the actual participants from the Qualification Round will have already completed their work. The participants are encouraged to tune in for the stream to watch the top players solving the cases and to check their solution approached and answers.

At the end of the stream we expect to announce the *preliminary* results – the names and scores of all the players, including the provisional list of those who made it into the Main Draw from each of the regions. After that you will have time until 8:00 AM London time on Monday, October 9, for filing reasonable result challenges (if any). We will review the objections and act if deemed grounded. After that the results will become final and the 128 players will be officially announced on our social media on Monday, October 9, 5:00 PM London time.

Wildcards

The 3 wildcard players will be selected in the timeframe between the Qualification Round and the Last 128 round. If you have not qualified to the Main Draw but you feel that you have a compelling story and you deserve to take part, just send us an email to info@fmworldcup.com.

One of the players that was awarded a wildcard last year was Norman Sheppard. On the day of the Qualification Round 2022, he was also taking part in a marathon. Norman ran the first half of the marathon, sat down to complete the Qualification Round, and then continued to finish his marathon. We admired his commitment and provided a wildcard for Norman.

The Draw

After all the 128 players are announced, we will make the draw. The top 8 players in FMWC regular rankings will be “seeded” – they will not meet each other before Las Vegas Finals.

FAQ

If I don't make it through the Qualification Round, am I eligible for the Last Chance Qualification Round in Las Vegas?

Sure, everyone is eligible. Just come to Las Vegas Training Camp in December and compete again in the Last Chance Qualification Round. If you are one of the top 8 performers in the round, you will be taking part in the finals on stage in the HyperX Esports Arena.

Will I get the cases from the other rounds if I don't make it through the Qualification Round?

Yes, you will. Every participant of MEWC 2023 will get access to all 12 cases from all the rounds of the tournament. After each new case is used for the competition, it will become available in the FMWC shop. All participants will receive a discount code in their email that they will be able to use to get the case for free.

How do I best prepare for the Qualification Round?

Get acquainted with the last year's [QR case format](#) and solve some of the [previous cases](#) of the Excel Esports format. Also, you might watch some of the Road to Las Vegas videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

What if I run into problems during the Qualification Round?

First, check our LinkedIn page – maybe we are already aware of it. If no updates there, write an email to info@fmworldcup.com describing your problem. Our team will take care of your emails ASAP on the competition day.

See you at the Qualification Round!

Good luck!

On behalf of FMWC Team,

Andrew Grigolyunovich, CFA, MFM

Founder & CEO