

Industry Edge: An Introduction to Organized Play

Featuring RE Darymple, Organized Play

Fri. July 16, 2000

WIZO Zugran: Welcome to Wizards Presents Industry Edge with RE Darymple - An Introduction to Organized Play

WIZO Zugran: Okay all, looks like we are ready. RE, opening comments?

TSR RE: Thanks for joining us. I work with the DCI helping set up tournament and membership systems, and I've spent a little time writing a floor rule or two and designing reporting systems.

Famulus: I run tournaments about 1 every 6 weeks for my students at school. We get about 40-50 to come. How does this stack up with other tournaments in size?

TSR RE: That's pretty big. We usually see attendance at around 15-20 players per event. The general DCI trend is a ton of tournaments (we're on pace for more than 80,000 this year), but relatively small attendance to what you're seeing.

Tech 1881: Where can I learn how to booster draft?

TSR RE: Probably the best place to go to learn how to booster draft is your local store. Thousands of stores run sanctioned and non-sanctioned tournaments all over North America.

Famulus: It's a JK-12 school and 95% of the people who come to the tournaments are 16 or under...if I wanted to run a JSS qualifier, how would I do that?

TSR RE: About the JSS qualifiers, the best thing to do is start getting them sanctioned, if you aren't already. Our sanctioning agent, Linda, is great. Email her at lindar@wizards.com if you're interested.

Famulus: I have begun to sanction our tournaments with Linda Roberts, and have taken and passed the level I judge test at DragonCon...So Linda can take care of the JSS stuff?

TSR RE: One note on my previous line. You'll need to sanction regular tournaments with us for a while before getting started with JSS qualifiers. Schedule your regular events for starters.

Famulus: I plan to run 8 sanctioned tournaments this year.

TSR RE: Eight sanctioned events sounds great. If you have any questions about scheduling them, just let Linda know.

Famulus: When I run the tournaments, we use our school cafeteria. I separate it into 2 sections: a 'tournament' section and a 'deck-building/snack/rest' section. I haven't seen other tournaments run this way. Is this okay?

Famulus: I do it because we have some kids as young as 7 there, and they are easily distracted by their friends as duels end.

TSR RE: The way you have things set up sounds very positive. We've done a little of that with new games, so people have a place to learn to play before jumping in to the big event. We're seeing that set up become more known.

Famulus: We also run some anime and stuff on a VCR so people can 'get out of the magic-mind' between tournaments; the younger kids tend to burn out. The older kids talk strategy and combos and stuff the whole 9 hours.

TSR RE: The reasons you're mentioning are some of those we've heard from others who set up areas such as you have. Sounds like you have a good thing going.

Famulus: It's been a dream since 1994 - I'm glad to see it finally taking off!

TSR RE: I'm glad to hear it. We've seen a number of organizers who are really seeing their numbers grow in the past few months.

Famulus: We are planning to begin to require deck registration b/c we have had some difficulty with people keeping their cards together in our sealed deck tournaments. When deck registration is required...does the person whose deck it is have to fill out the sheet, or could someone else do it? In this way, older kids could help out the younger ones to write it out.

TSR RE: We highly recommend requiring deck registration, because it helps everyone keep their cards straight.

Famulus: Is it tournament legal to have someone help? We have some YOUNG people there (1st graders sometimes!) So is it DCI legal to have that happen?

TSR RE: It's better not to have people help, but considering the ages of the people you're talking about, it's probably acceptable. I suggest if you're going to have people help younger players fill out deck lists that you let all the players participating know that before the event begins.

Famulus: And just as a comment for anyone here who runs tournaments: We always have DOOR prizes for EVERY participant...so even if you have someone who is playing for the first time and they get CREAMED...they still walk away with something...Sealed Deck cards non-withstanding. And yeah, we try to disclose any irregularities beforehand.

TSR RE: In cases such as yours--and for many local sanctioned tournaments throughout North America--one of the focuses of rules should be education, so players learn how to play in events properly. By helping the younger players learn how to fill out decklists, you're helping them get ready for more competitive play. Just be sure the other players know what's going on before the event begins.

Famulus: I'm a teacher, and these are my students (I teach JK-12 students), so I am very sensitive to the younger ones needs. I also get LOTS of parental support. The way I see it - the parents are happy to have their kids be somewhere safe, fun and mentally challenging for 8-10 hours on a Saturday...its like a babysitting service!

TSR RE: Door prizes are really good. Letting everyone walk away with something is a good practice to keep people coming back.

Famulus: I usually hunt on the secondary market for older cards - at our last tournament in June, the door prize was a booster of Homelands for everyone and the grand prize for 1st place was a full set of Homelands. These are people who started playing when Tempest or Urza's Saga was out...so that's OLLLLD stuff for them.

TSR RE: A number of our tournament organizers and judges are teachers. In fact, one of my colleagues who currently manages the DCI Floor Rules used to teach.

TSR Mel: Do you class the kids to play against others their own age? How do you deal with newbies facing a beatdown deck?

Famulus: We run sealed deck....and use age modified swiss pairs. We are going to do 3 constructed tourneys this year though....

TSR Mel: okay, this was my problem even with people close in age!

Famulus: 1 type II (standard), 1 Extended and 1 type I (no holds barred)

Famulus: They will provide a different structure for the people to participate in.

TSR Mel: Do you find that OP is getting more competitive or leveling off as the tourneys become more widespread? (i.e. you didn't travel half way across the country to play so you aren't as invested in winning)

TSR RE: I would say that on the whole, things are becoming less competitive. However, you're still playing your friends and others in your area, so bragging rights can keep things competitive.

TSR Mel: I am more casual, So I'd like that

TSR RE: When you ask most players if they consider themselves competitive, they say no, but they still like to go to their local store and have a good time at regular sanctioned tournaments. And those local sanctioned tournaments can be quite competitive, but in a fun way.

TSR Mel: Yeah they usually say that right after I've been beat down with a chapin dec :)

Famulus: What is the rule on shuffling your opponent's deck: is it allowed or isn't it?

TSR RE: It's been a while since I've looked at the Universal Tournament Rules, so I can't quite quote the rule, but I encourage you to look it up on the DCI tournament rules page.

Famulus: On the mailing list there has been discussion about the shuffling rule (since the 'Mike Long' incident...). Just wondering if it has been implemented.

TSR RE: I know that we're looking at the language of our shuffling rule.

Famulus: They are Chaotic

TSR RE: We'll be issuing a new set of Universal Tournament Rules and game-specific floor rules in August--effective in September for the new tournament season--so you should see something there.

WIZO Zugran: RE, do you have any closing comments/statements before we make this a wrap?

TSR RE: Good luck with all your upcoming events!

WIZO Zugran: Well put RE, many thanks for sharing.

Famulus: Thanks, RE...

TSR Mel: Thanks for spending an hour here with us tonight!

TSR RE: Glad I could be here. If anyone has any questions about DCI sanctioned tournaments, they can email them to dcி@wizards.com, and we'll do our best to get back to them promptly.