



ESL ANZ Champs joins the ESL Pro Tour for StarCraft II

Replacing Blizzard's WCS Challenger tournament, the ESL ANZ Champs now becomes the official pathway for Oceanic & SEA StarCraft II players to enter the ESL Pro Tour.

Sydney, Australia, 6 March, 2020 - Today ESL has announced the addition of the ESL ANZ Champs as an official pathway to the ESL Pro Tour for StarCraft II. The new integration provides players across Oceania and South-East Asia (SEA) a clear route into four (4) Masters level events throughout the year.

"With the addition of StarCraft II to the ESL ANZ Champs, we're excited to also unveil this new global pathway for players in our league." said James Fletcher, Product Manager at ESL Australia. "Competing at an ESL Pro Tour Masters level event is an aspiration that we hope many local players share, and we look forward to seeing our region represented on the global stage."

In 2020, StarCraft II in the ESL ANZ Champs will feature four (4) qualifier events that will offer the region's top competitors a pathway into ESL Pro Tour Master level events. In Season 1 2020, all players will be able to compete for a single slot into DreamHack Dallas and DreamHack Valencia. In Season 2, players will have the opportunity to compete amongst the world's best at DreamHack Montreal and one additional Masters level event, to be announced.

StarCraft II in the ESL ANZ Champs this year will allow players from a broader regional pool across Oceania and South-East Asia to compete, including players from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam. Each qualifier will consist of three stages: Open Qualifiers, Group Stage and Playoffs, whilst featuring a whopping \$6,600USD (over \$9,000AUD as of 12/02/2020) in prize money and the prestigious global pathway to each respective event.

ANZ Champs Qualifier Dates:

DreamHack StarCraft II Masters Dallas Qualifier: 3rd - 19th of April, 2020

DreamHack StarCraft II Masters Valencia Qualifier: 29th of May to 7th June, 2020

DreamHack StarCraft II Masters Montreal Qualifier: 24th of July to 2nd of August, 2020

StarCraft II Masters Event Qualifier: Late 2020 – 2021

For more information, and to sign up, players can visit the official ESL ANZ Champs website at pro.eslgaming.com/anz/sc2

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Media Contact Details:

Alex Blaikie | PR & Social Manager, ESL Australia

E: a.blaikie@eslgaming.com

M: 0401 947 878

Media Contact Details:

Dan Chiappini | Senior Communications Manager, Blizzard Entertainment Australia and New Zealand.

E: dchiappini@blizzard.com

M: 0419 652 040

ABOUT ESL:

ESL is the world's largest esports company. Founded in 2000, ESL has been shaping the industry across the most popular video games with numerous online and offline esports competitions. The company operates high profile, branded international leagues and tournaments under the ESL Pro Tour including ESL One, Intel® Extreme Masters, ESL Pro League, and other premier stadium-size tournaments, to more clearly define the path from zero to hero. ESL also produces the ESL National Championships, grassroots amateur cups, and matchmaking systems, creating a world where everybody can be somebody. With offices all over the world, ESL is leading esports innovation on a global scale through the combination of global ESL competitions, amateur leagues, publisher activations, and more. ESL is a part of MTG, the leading international digital entertainment group. about.eslgaming.com

About Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.

Best known for blockbuster hits including World of Warcraft®, Hearthstone, Overwatch®, the Warcraft, StarCraft®, and Diablo® franchises, and the multifranchise Heroes of the Storm®, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. (www.blizzard.com), a division of Activision Blizzard (NASDAQ: ATVI), is a premier developer and publisher of entertainment software renowned for creating some of the industry's most critically acclaimed games. Blizzard Entertainment's track record includes twenty-two #1 games* and numerous Game of the Year awards. The company's online gaming service, Battle.net®, is one of the largest online-gaming services in the world, with millions of active players.

*Sales and/or downloads, based on internal company records and reports from key distributors.

Contacts

Alex Blaikie
0401947878
mailto:press.aus@eslgaming.com