

Gamespace League System Client Documentation

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Index

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Getting Started.....	3
2.1	Registration.....	3
2.2	Clans.....	3
2.3	Teams.....	5
3	Controlling Clans and Team.....	7
3.1	Changing Clan Details.....	7
3.2	Clan Members.....	7
3.3	Changing Team Details.....	8
3.4	Team Members.....	8
4	Ladders and Matches.....	10
4.1	Joining a Ladder.....	10
4.2	Creating a Match.....	10
4.3	Team Ratings.....	11

1 Introduction

When a gamer is first introduced to the online gaming community they quickly hear about the concept of clans. A clan is a group of gamers who form a team to take part in online competitions and leagues. In recent years clans have moved away from being large groups of people to becoming small single team clans who play in a single competition. As a result the difference between a clan and a team has become blurred.

The EMS League is a system designed to give a gamer the ability to manage their clans and hopefully to create a clear distinction between the concept of a clan and a team. To do this the system allows the management of an overall clan, and within the clan the clan members can become members of multiple teams. This allows a clan to be a large group of members who can create multiple teams of different skill levels for different games.

Another goal of this functionality is to encourage the development of highly skilled teams. Being able to form a large group of gamers increases the chance of attracting more skilled players and putting them into a single team. The team you play in is no longer a clan made up of the first 5 friends you have convinced to join you, but an organised entity of people with the same skill level as yourself.

2 Getting Started

The ultimate goal of any league system is for a gamer to be a member of a team allowing them to challenge and play against another team. To do this the gamer must be registered with the system and a member of a clan, and finally a clan team. Once they are a member of a clan team that team is free to challenge any other team that is signed up to the same ladder.

2.1 Registration

Registration to the league system is handled by the network forum. Registration to the forum will give you access to all parts of the network including the league system. A link to the forum registration should be available in the login box. Once your registration is complete you should be able to log into the league system using the username and password you selected.

[Insert screenshot of login box here]

2.2 Clans

The clan is the first step in using the league system. All people wishing to play in a ladder must be a member of a clan. There are two ways you can become a member of a clan. The first method is to create a new clan. Your other option is to join an existing clan.

Creating a New Clan

You should only create a new clan if you believe you can encourage enough people to join your clan and to form at least one team. If you have these people then your first step is to log into the league system. Once you have logged into the system you should see a link titled "Create a New Clan".

A clan creation form should be presented to you after following that link. At a minimum you must enter a clan name, and a clan tag. A clan tag is a short string of characters that should be unique to your clan. The tag is used to identify your clan's teams and members.

Once you have entered the details of your clan clicking save will create your clan. If you get returned back to the create page you are either missing the clan name, clan tag, or your clan logo does not meet the image requirements. Correct the mistake and try again.

When your clan has been successfully created you will be presented with a page giving you the option to create a team for your clan, or to view the clan details.

Joining an Existing Clan

If you do not wish to create a new clan, but feel you have the skills to benefit an existing clan you are able to request membership to any of the already registered clans.

The first step to joining an existing clan is to log into the league system. Once logged in a link titled "Join a Clan" should be available to you. Following that link will present

you with a list of all the registered clans. If you already know the name of the clan you wish to join then simply find the clan in that list and follow the link titled “Request Membership” that is next to each clan name.

Your other option is to view the clan details. From here you can see the people who are already a member of the clan, also the currently active clan teams. If you like the look of the clan then the “Request Membership” link should be available to you from that page as well.

If the “Request Membership” link is not present on the clan list, or the clan details page then you are either not logged into the system, or you are already a member of too many clans to be allowed to join another clan.

After following the “Request Membership” link you will be presented with a small form that will allow you to enter a small description of yourself and the reasons you would want to join the clan. This is where you are free to argue your worth to the clan leader. It could mean the difference between your acceptance into the clan, or your rejection.

Once you have submitted your request it is in the hands of the clan leader. If they accept your request you are automatically made a member of the clan and notified by email. All requests made to other clans will be automatically withdrawn. If your request is rejected then you are notified by email with a reason for the rejection.

Recruitment Pool

If you do not know which clan to join then it is possible to indicate your wish to be recruited to all the existing clans. Your information can be added to a recruitment pool along with a description of your abilities, the games you play, and an estimate of your skill level in these games.

To add yourself to this list log in to the league system. Under 'clan management' there is a link 'Recruitment Options'. Following this link will take you to a page where you can enter your recruitment information. Make sure you tick the 'Recruit' box. Once saved you will be added to the recruitment pool. If you wish to remove yourself from this list go back to the 'Recruitment Options' and untick the 'Recruit' box.

As soon as you are recruited to a clan you will be automatically removed from the recruitment pool.

Leaving a Clan

A time may come when you no longer wish to be a part of the clan. It is possible for you to retire from the clan. To do this view the clan details page and find your name on the membership list. If you are logged into the league system you should see a link next to your name titled “retire”. Following this link will present you with a page where you can state your reason for leaving. Once the message is typed in and you press the “Retire” button you will be removed from the clan and any clan teams you are a member of.

If you are the clan leader you will also be presented with a drop down box where you can select a new clan leader from the existing clan members.

It is also possible for your clan membership to be forcibly removed. If this occurs your clan membership is automatically removed and you will receive an email from the clan leader giving the reason for the dismissal.

If you are the last member of a clan the clan will be automatically disbanded.

2.3 Teams

A team is the group of clan members that take part in the league competitions. To be a member of a team you must first be a member of the clan that owns the team. Control of the teams are the area of the clan leader and their assistants. These people are the only ones who are able to create a new team, or assign members to the teams.

Creating a new Team

A team can only be created by a person who has permission to do so. These are usually the clan leader and their assistants.

The first place that you are able to create a new team is immediately after the creation of a new clan. After you have entered the new clan details you are presented with a page to either create a new team, or to view the clan details. The first step to creating a new team is to select the ladder you wish the team to play in. Once selected press the “Create Team” button.

The other place to create a team from is on the clan details page. At the top of the clan teams list there should be a link to “create a new team”. This link will only be visible if you have permission to create a team. Following this link will present you with the page where you can select the ladder the team is to play in.

After selecting the ladder to play in you are presented with a form where you can fill in the clan details. At a minimum you must put in a team name, and select the clan member who will be the captain for this team. Once these things are filled out press “Save” and you will be taken to the “Team Details” page which will show you a list of the clan members who are a part of this team, and the matches they have recently played.

Joining an existing Team

Only a clan leader or their assistants can assign people to a team. To do this view the team details. Under the list of team members you should be presented with a select box giving you a list of all the available clan members. You will only be able to select clan members who are not already a member of a team in the same ladder. This prevents a person from being in two teams on the same ladder. Simply select the clan member you wish to have on the team and press the join button.

Leaving a Team

A time may come when you no longer wish to be a member of the team. To leave a team go to the “View Team Details” page and find your name on the member list. If you are

logged in you should see a “retire” link next to your name. Follow this link and you are presented with a form allowing you to give a reason for your retirement. If you are the Team Captain you will also have to select the new Team Captain.

If you are the last member of the team then your retirement will result in the team being automatically disbanded. However, if a new team is created for the same ladder it will automatically resurrect the team allowing you to keep the old teams statistics.

It is also possible to be forcibly removed from the team. This can be done by the Team Captain or the Clan Leaders.

3 Controlling Clans and Team

Clans and Teams are dynamic entities. Details often need to be changes, members are added and removed, and the position of members within the clans and teams change.

The EMS League system gives Clan Leaders and Team Captains the ability to modify all these details as the need arises.

3.1 Changing Clan Details

All of your clan details like the Clan Name, Tag, Logo, and Description can be modified as needed.

To make these changes log into the league system and go to “View Clan”. If you have permission to change these values there will be a link titled “Edit Clan Details”. Following this link will give you a form that will allow you to change these values. You must ensure that you have a Clan Name, and a Clan Tag entered before you will be able to save your new details.

3.2 Clan Members

The people who are part of a clan is constantly changing. A clan leader must have the ability to add and remove members from their clan. It may also be necessary to change a clan members rank. The rank can be used to distinguish members from each other. A new member will only have a very low rank, however a person who has been a member for much longer and proved themselves can be promoted and given new responsibilities.

Inviting new Members

Clan members can be managed by the Clan Leader and their Assistants. It is often required to recruit new clan members. If you know the person you wish to recruit go to the “View Clan” page. Underneath the Clan Members list is a small form where you can type in the username of the new recruit. The username must be entered exactly how the new recruit uses it. It is possible to type in a partial username and pressing the link “Search”. This will open a new window with a list of possible users. Select the one you want and it will automatically put the username into the recruit form for you. You will then be required to type in an invitation message.

If the user accepts your invitation they will automatically become a member of your clan.

To remove a membership invitation follow the link “Outstanding Invitations”. From this page it is possible to delete any invitations you have made.

Processing Membership Requests

Any person registered on the league system has the ability to request membership to your clan. If you get a membership request to your clan the link “Outstanding Requests” will be made available. From this page you are able to either accept or reject a membership request. If you accept the request the person will become a member of your clan. If you reject the request you will be required to fill out a reason for the rejection.

Promotion and Demotion

It is possible to change a clan members rank within a clan. Any clan member is able to promote another clan member to the rank just below theirs. As a members rank is increased their abilities within the clan change. A higher ranked clan member may have access to change the clan details for example.

To change a clan members rank log into the league system and go to the “View Clan” page. If you have the ability to change another clan members rank the links “promote” and “demote” will appear next to their name on the “Clan Members” list.

Discharging Members

Occasionally it may be necessary to discharge another clan member.

To do this log into the league system and go to the “View Clan” page. If you have the ability to discharge another clan member the link “discharge” will appear next to their name in the “Clan Members” list. After following that link you will be required to enter a reason for the members dismissal. Once sent the member is automatically removed from the clan.

3.3 Changing Team Details

All of your Team details like the Team Name and Description can be modified as needed.

To do this go to the “Team Details” page linked from the “Clan Details” page. If you have permission to change these details there will be a link titled “Edit Team Details”. Following this link will provide you with a form where you can change these values. You must ensure a Team Name is entered before you will be able to save the new values.

3.4 Team Members

To ensure a clan is able to create the best team possible the team captain must be able to swap team members in and out of their team. It is also possible to change a team members rank to indicate their position in the team, or to give them additional responsibilities.

Adding Team Members

Only a clan leader or their assistants can assign people to a team. To do this view the team details. Under the list of team members you should be presented with a select box

giving you a list of all the available clan members. You will only be able to select clan members who are not already a member of a team in the same ladder. This prevents a person from being in two teams on the same ladder. Simply select the clan member you wish to have on the team and press the join button.

Promotion and Demotion

It is possible to change a Team Members rank within a team. To do this go to the “Team Details” page linked from the “Clan Details” page. If you have permission to change the team members rank you will see a “promote” and a “demote” link next to the member name on the member list. Using these links will change the members rank.

Discharging Members

Occasionally it is necessary to remove a member from a team. To do this go to the “Team Details” page linked from the “Clan Details” page. If you have permission to discharge the member you will see a “discharge” link next to their name on the members list. Following this link will take you to a form where you can enter a reason for their dismissal.

Be aware that discharging a member from a team will not remove them from the clan. A member can only be removed from a clan from the “Clan Details” page.

4 Ladders and Matches

The ladder is the part of the league system that tracks the ranks of every team in a competition. To join a league competition you have to register a team on the ladder. When you created a team you would have been asked to specify the ladder you wished the team to be in. If you have created a team for your clan then you are already registered in a ladder and once your team meets the ladder requirements you will be free to challenge other teams to matches.

The results of every match is recorded in the system and these results affect your rank on the ladder.

4.1 Joining a Ladder

To join a ladder your clan must create a team. When the team is created you will be asked which ladder you want to team to be a member of. Each team can only be a member of one ladder. To create a team see the section Teams.

Certain ladders will have extra conditions placed on clans and their ability to create a team for a ladder. A ladder may not allow more than one team from a clan to join the same ladder. If it does allow multiple teams from a clan it may not allow those team to challenge each other, meaning those teams can only challenge teams from other clans.

4.2 Creating a Match

To play a match your team must meet the ladder requirements. Some ladders may require a minimum number of team members before you are able to play. A ladder may also require a certain number of teams to be registered on the ladder before play can begin. Once all ladder conditions are met your team will be free to challenge or accept a challenge from any other team on the ladder to a match.

Challenging Another Team

To create a match, log into the league system and go to the ladder page your team is a member of. If you have permission to challenge another team then a 'challenge' link should appear next to the teams on the ladder. If there is no challenge link then there is a restriction preventing your from challenging that team at this time. That team may be involved in another match, or another team from your clan.

If you meet all of the conditions then follow the challenge link. You will then be presented with a page allowing you to enter your challenge to the other team. On that page you will be asked to enter a challenge message which you must enter. You will also be asked to select different map options that the match may be played on. Each round may require a number of options to be presented to the other team. You will also be required to enter a number of challenge times. These are the times that the match can take place.

Once the challenge is sent you just need to wait for the response from your opposition. The challenged team will select the final maps to play on, and the final match time.

Responding to a Challenge

If your team has been challenged to a match you will be unable to make any challenges to other teams until you have responded to your challenge.

To respond to a challenge log into the league system and go to the ladder page. Information about your challenge should be visible at the top of the page under “Upcoming Matched” or next to your team on the ladder. Follow the 'respond' link. You will then be presented with a response form. In this form you will be able to enter a response message, the final maps to play on from the options the challenger gave you, and the final match time from the options the challenger gave you.

You may also be required to enter in some server details. These details will be used in the automatic server booking that will be created for your match. The server details will be sent to both teams with all the match details.

Reporting Match Results

After a match has been completed either team is free to report the results. You will only be able to report the results after the designated match time.

To report the match results log into the league system and go to the ladder page. If you have permission to report the match results a 'report' link should appear up the top under “Upcoming Matches” or next to your team on the ladder. Follow this link and you will be asked to enter a score for each round or an optional dispute. Do NOT enter anything into the 'dispute' field unless there was a problem with the match that requires an admin to sort out.

If the other team has already reported the match results you will be required to finalise the results. If the finalisation is not done within a time frame the results will be automatically finalised and the new team rankings applied.

To finalise the match results, log into the league system and go to the ladder page. If you have permission to finalise the results a 'finalised' link should appear up the top under “Upcoming Matches” or next to your team on the ladder. Follow this link and you will be presented with the results as they were entered by the other team. If you are satisfied with the results press the 'finalise' button and your new team ratings will be applied to each team. If you have a dispute with the results of any other part of the match enter a dispute message and an admin will be notified to resolve the dispute. Do Not enter a dispute message unless you have a legitimate dispute.

4.3 Team Ratings

The team ratings are calculated using the ELO rating system. The ELO rating system is a statistical system designed to calculate each teams rating based on the probability of either team winning the match. It is widely believed to be the best rating system and is used internationally to rate chess and go players. It has also been used by some people to rate the

world soccer teams, and by Yahoo on 'Yahoo Games', and Blizzard to rate the players on Battle.Net.

ELO works on a principle of a sliding scale of points awarded to the winning team and removed from the losing team based on their probability of winning. Any points that are awarded to the winner are also taken off the loser.

Based on each team's rating, a probability of either team winning is calculated. So if 'Team A' is rated higher than 'Team B' then the probability of 'Team A' winning is higher than the probability of 'Team B' winning. The number of points that each team gets after a match reflects these probabilities. So if 'Team B' wins then they will be rewarded with more points than if 'Team A' wins simply because their probability of winning is much lower.

For more details about the ELO rating system wikipedia has a page describing it in depth. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ELO_rating_system)