

Empire Builder System RULES CHANGE 2025

Sudden Death Tiebreaker

In case of a tie for first, all tied players continue in a sudden-death format, from the position they had at the end of the final round (same location, locomotive, cards and loads).

- Events that are not lasting or permanent are discarded
- Any Event cards drawn during tiebreaker play are discarded without effect.
- Otherwise, play continues as normal.
- Cash is counted at the end of every round during which at least one player has made a delivery.
- If there is still a tie at that point, all tied players continue to play under these rules, until there is one player has the most cash at the end of a round during which a delivery was made.

The tiebreaker will also be used for second place during a semi-final where second placed finishers will advance.

Scoring. Each tied player's score is recorded as the original amount of cash they each had at the end of the Final Scoring Phase, with their position determined by the result of the tiebreaker.

See Playing Examples on Page 2 (back of this sheet).

Why the Change?

The original Mayfair tiebreaker did not work well for tournament play, but we think this one finds the right balance by playing out quickly and only involving the players who were tied for first to begin with.

Sudden Death Tiebreaker Examples

Example Game 1. At the end of the Final Scoring phase, Kennie, Davie and Aimee are tied at 262 million, with Crissie at 219. The three who are tied play on under these rules. On the second turn, Aimee makes a delivery for 16 million to win. Their scores are recorded as:

Aimee	1 st Place	262	
Kennie	2 nd Place	262	
Davie	2 nd Place	262	
Crissie	4 th Place		219

Example Game 2. At the end of the Final Scoring phase, Kennie, Davie and Aimee are tied at 262 million, with Crissie at 219. The three who are tied play on under these rules. On the first turn, Kennie pitches his cards, Davie moves his train and Aimee pays Kennie 4 million to use his network. [Kennie has more money than the others at the end of that round, but does not win because no delivery was made that round so cash is not counted.] On the second turn, Kennie pitches again, Davie moves again and Aimee rides Kennie again to make a delivery for 16 million. Cash is counted now. Aimee and Kennie are tied at 270, with Davie still at 262. Davie is eliminated, so Aimee and Kennie play on. On the third turn, Aimee uses one of Crissie's lines (paying 4 million to the bank) to make a delivery for 18 million. Kennie can't do anything useful. Aimee has the most cash so she wins the game. Their scores are recorded as:

Aimee	1 st Place	262	
Kennie	2 nd Place	262	
Davie	3 rd Place	262	
Crissie	4 th Place		219

[Note: This recording format is used in all TGA tournament play, when a tie is resolved by a tiebreaker. It is good form to note "Tiebreaker" on the scoresheet so everything is clear to the scoring table.]