



The 17th Annual  
**Scrabble  
Tournament**

**H O M E E D I T I O N**

★ **Rules and Guidelines** ★

# READY TO PLAY?

In this guide you will find everything you need to know to take part in The Literacy Center's 17th Annual Scrabble Tournament (Home Edition).

The Literacy Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving adult literacy and education, thereby strengthening our community. Playing in the tournament means supporting our mission!

We know too many rules can really make games lose their fun. That's why we've worked hard to make this Home Tournament as easy-to-follow as possible.

Once you're ready to register, head to [www.litcenter.org](http://www.litcenter.org) and choose your league!

# COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

## Registration Fee

\$20 per person. \$10 per student (valid student ID required).  
Teams of up to 3 are permitted.

## Gameplay

Each team will play 3 games of Scrabble between August 14th and 18th.

Teams with more than one player can either play three games altogether or split the games between players. Please refer to the 'General Rules' for a helpful explanation of this.

Players will either play a physical game of Scrabble against another player (who is not in the tournament), or play against a human or computer using a Scrabble (or similar) app.

All of this is clearly explained in 'General Rules'.

## Submitting Scores

Players will submit their own scores by emailing [scrabble@litcenter.org](mailto:scrabble@litcenter.org)

## Prizes and Awards

1st place trophies will be awarded to the teams in the Pro, Semi-Pro, and Student divisions that hold the highest cumulative scores. 2nd place medals and 3rd place ribbons will also be awarded.

Competitive Players are also invited to enter our side-competitions.

# COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

# THE DIVISIONS

We have 1st place trophies, 2nd place medals, and 3rd place ribbons for the following divisions.

## PRO

\$20 per person. Teams of up to 3 are permitted. The Pro division is intended for players that have scored 800 or more points in their average Scrabble game.

## SEMI-PRO

\$20 per person. Teams of up to 3 are permitted. The Semi-Pro division is intended for players that have scored 800 or less points in their average Scrabble game. Your average Scrabble player is best suited to this division!

## REBEL

The Rebel division originally utilized rule-bending fun, but since we'll be playing at home, the Rebel division will be for teams that still want to compete for a trophy, but don't feel quite up to Pro or Semi-Pro standard yet.

## STUDENT

\$10 per student. Teams made entirely of students with valid student IDs are able to take part in the Student division.

Students that wish to take part in the Pro, Semi-Pro or Rebel divisions are welcome to do so, for \$10 per student.

# CASUAL LEAGUE

## Registration Fee

For a donation of any amount, individuals may play in the casual league. Donations can be made through the donate button on the registration page.

Make sure that you include the name of the person that donated on your registration form!

## Gameplay

Each individual will play one game of Scrabble.

Players will either play a physical game of Scrabble against another player (who is not in the tournament), or play against a human or computer using a Scrabble (or similar) app.

## Submitting Scores

Players will submit their score from their game by emailing [scrabble@litcenter.org](mailto:scrabble@litcenter.org)

## Prizes and Awards

The five players with the highest scores will receive a prize (TBD).

Casual Players are also invited to enter our side-competitions.

# GENERAL RULES

## COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

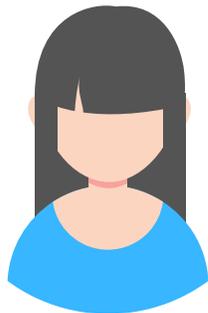
### Three Players playing individually

A three-player team can either play together or individually. We'll look at examples of each.

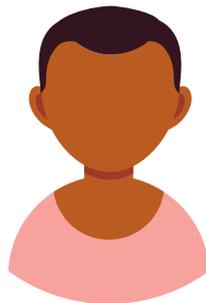
Let's look at a three-player team playing individually.

Here's an example:

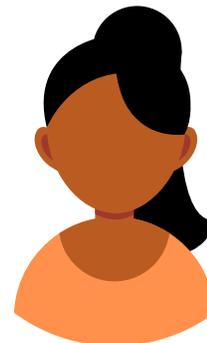
### 'Triple Word Score'



Jane



Adam



Melissa

This team - Triple Word Score - are part of the Pro division. They decide to all play one game of Scrabble individually.

Jane lives next door to Adam, so decides to play a game against him. Then they'll both submit their scores.

This is **not allowed**.



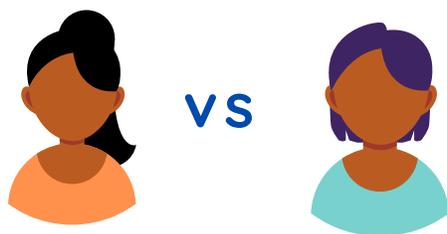
VS



Adam and Jane need to play different games with different people. You can't play against other tournament players.

Melissa decides to play Scrabble with her mother, who isn't playing in the tournament. Then she will submit her score.

This is **allowed**.



Jane finds a friend who is willing to play a game of Scrabble with her. But, her friend doesn't have a Scrabble set, and she lives in a different state. Jane decides to play Words with Friends, a game like Scrabble that is played on smartphones, with her friend.

This is **allowed**.



Adam doesn't have any friends who play Scrabble. He decides to play against a computer using Words with Friends.

This is **allowed**.

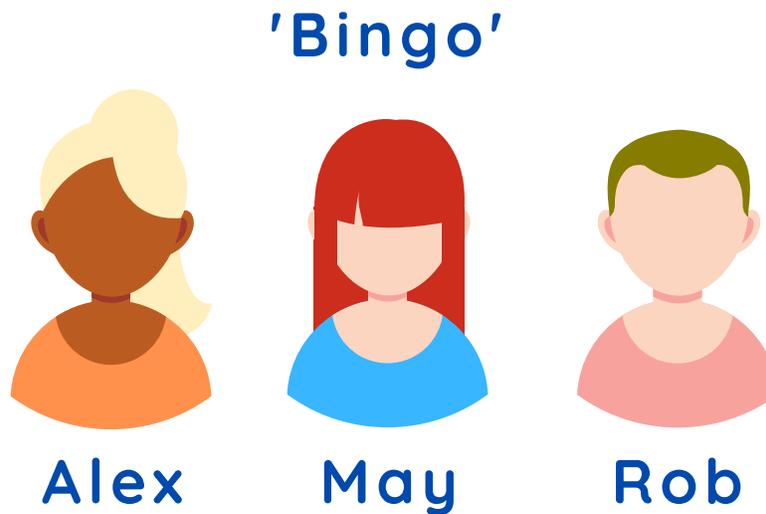


All three members of Triple Word Score have played one game. They're done!

## Three Players playing together

Let's now look at a three-player team that wants to play together.

Here's an example:



This team - Bingo - are part of the Semi-Pro division. They all need to play one game of Scrabble.

They all live together, so they decide to all play against their next-door neighbor in **one** game. Then they'll submit their score.

This is **allowed**.



Each player in Bingo has played one game - they're done!

## Two Players

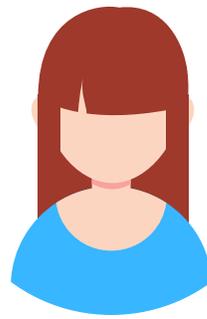
Two-player teams can play exactly how three-player teams play. All it means is that one person plays more than one game.

Here's an example:

'800+'



Dauida

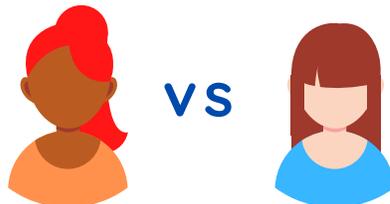


Regina

This team - 800+ - are playing in the Pro division

Dauida and Regina live together, so they decide to play against each other.

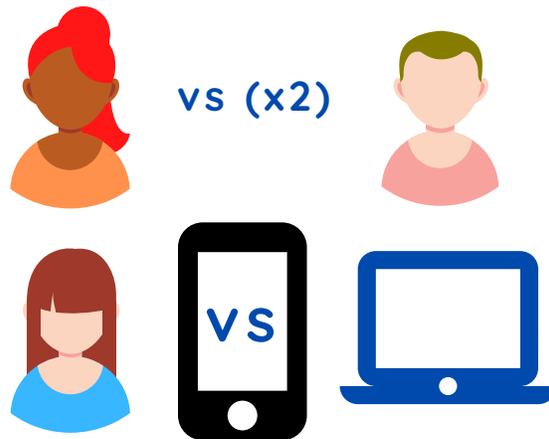
This is **not allowed**.



Players can't play against other tournament players.

Instead, Davida plays two games against a friend. Regina plays one game against a computer on her phone.

This is **allowed**.



800+ has now played three games - they're done.

You can mix and match in any way you like. Members of same team can not play against each other.

## One Player

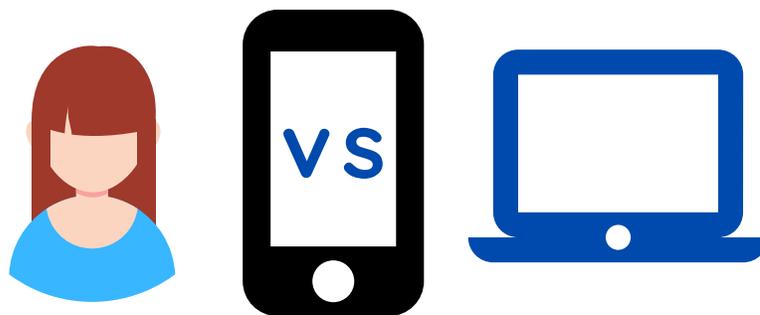
Single-player teams can play however they like. They can play three times against a friend, three times against a computer, or mix it up.

# GENERAL RULES

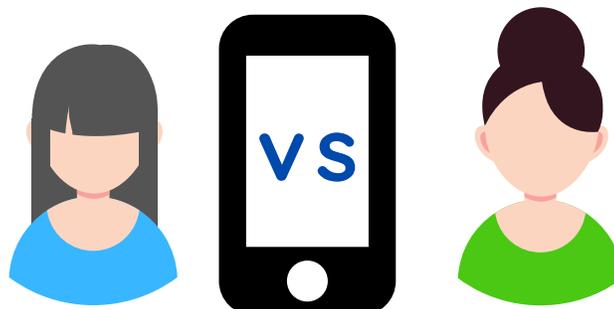
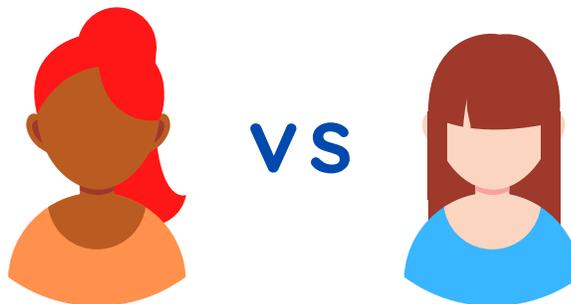
## CASUAL LEAGUE

Players in the casual league follow the same rules, but only play one game of Scrabble. Remember:

One game, against one other person who is not playing in the tournament. You can play against a computer if you like.



Play against a computer



Play against a non-tournament player

# GENERAL RULES

**A L L L E A G U E S**

**ONLY PLAY YOUR TOURNAMENT GAMES ONCE**

You may not, for example, continuously play Scrabble until you get a high score. Competitive players play three games, and casual players one.

**DO NOT PLAY AGAINST OTHER TOURNAMENT PLAYERS**

Please only play against non-tournament players.

**NO HOUSE RULES**

For example, if you typically allow proper nouns in your games, this is not allowed in the tournament game. Follow the rulebook included in your Scrabble set. Games played in an app will not allow house rules, so if you're playing in an app, you'll be fine!

Official Scrabble rules are available online.

**Other questions can be taken to The Literacy Center.**

EMAIL

[admin@litcenter.org](mailto:admin@litcenter.org)

CALL

(812) 429-1222

TEXT

(812) 250-8724

# SUBMITTING YOUR SCORES

## E-mailing and texting

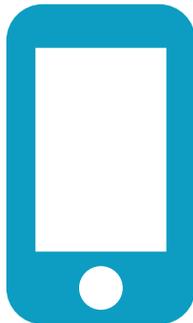
When emailing, please submit a picture of your score pad, along with a picture of the game board. You can also text images to (812) 250-8724. This automatically puts you into our 'Longest word' and 'Best scoring word' competitions.

Players using apps need to take screenshots of their scores/ game boards. If you do not know how to take a screenshot using your phone, please Google this before playing.

**Scores that are simply emailed to us without these images will not be accepted.**



[scrabble@litcenter.org](mailto:scrabble@litcenter.org)



(812) 250-8724

# SIDE-COMPETITIONS

Prizes for these competitions are to be determined and will be posted on [www.litcenter.org](http://www.litcenter.org). Entry into these competitions is automatic, aside from the last one.

## Longest Word

The player with the longest word (most amount of letters played in one turn) will win. In the event of multiple players submitting words of the same length, one will be randomly selected.

Letters that make up the word but have already been played count as part of the word.

## Highest Scoring Word

The player with the highest scoring word (most points scored in one turn) will win. In the event of multiple players submitting words of the same score, one will be randomly selected.

Tile bonuses will count. This is why pictures/ screenshots of the game board are important.

## Best Team Name

The team with the best team name will win. This will be voted on by TLC staff and Board of Directors.

## Costume Competition

The player who sends in a picture of them playing the game in the best costume will win. We leave it to the player to dress how they like - there is no particular theme. This will be voted on by TLC staff and Board of Directors.

# FAQs

## What's the difference between Competitive and Casual?

Competitive players can form teams of up to three players and play three games of Scrabble. They are eligible to win a trophy/ medal/ ribbon.

Casual players can only play as individuals. They play one game of Scrabble. They are eligible to win prizes (TBD)

Players in both leagues are invited to take part in our side-competitions.

## I already signed up to play in the regular tournament that was postponed. What now?

The physical, in-person event has been transferred to this virtual tournament. You are automatically part of the Competitive League, in your original division. If you have questions or would like to exit the tournament, please contact us.

## Will this replace the regular tournament in the future?

We hope to resume the in-person tournament next year. We may run a virtual, casual event concurrently.

## How do you know people aren't cheating?

Our rules are designed to limit opportunities for cheating. Adjudicators review all score submissions and are available for all questions.

Of course, this does not stop people from cheating if they really want to. We remind players that this is a charity fundraiser.

# SCRABBLE RULES

Official Rules for Scrabble are a piece of cake to follow. You'll need to follow them if you're playing in either league. These are just the plain rules for Scrabble: if you're playing through an app, you'll already be following them. If you have a physical set, you'll have a rule booklet! Use this as a reference; you don't have to read it all now.

## SETUP

Place all letter tiles in the pouch. Draw for first play. The team with the letter closest to "A" plays first. A blank tile will beat any letter. Return the letters to the pool and remix. Each team draws seven new letter each and places them in their racks.

## PLAYING

Usually, tournament play is timed. For the 2020 Home-Edition of this tournament, there will be no time limits to turns.

The first team combines two or more of their letters to form a word, and then places the word on the board to read either across or down with one letter on the center \*square. (Diagonal words are not allowed)

Complete your team's turn by counting and announcing the score for that turn. Counting out loud is not the same as announcing your score. Then draw as many new letters as you played, always keeping seven letter on your track, as long as there are enough left in the bag.

The opposing team then adds one or more letters to those already played to form new words. All letters played on a turn must be placed in one row across or down the board to form at least one complete word. If, at the same time, they touch other letters in adjacent rows, those must form complete words, crossword fashion, with all such letters. The team gets full credit for all words formed or modified on their turn.

New words may be formed by:

1. Adding one or more letters to a word or letters already on the board.
2. Placing a word at right angles to a word already on the board. The new word must use one of the letters already on the board or must add a letter to it.
3. Placing a complete word parallel to a word already played so the adjacent letters also must form complete words.

No tile may be shifted or replaced after it has been played and scored.

**BLANKS:** The two blank tiles may be used as any letters. When playing a blank you must state which letter it represents. It remains that letter for the rest of the game.

You may use a turn a turn to exchange all, some, or none of your letters. To do this, place your discarded letter(s) face down. Draw the same number of letters from the pool, then mix your discarded letter(s) into the pool. This ends your turn.

We use the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, 5th. For the Home-Edition, please use the online Scrabble word-checker for disputed words, or an official Scrabble dictionary. All words labeled as a part of speech (including those listed of foreign origin, and as archaic, obsolete, colloquial, slang, etc.) are permitted with the exception of the following: words always capitalized, abbreviations, prefixes and suffixes standing alone, words requiring a hyphen or an apostrophe. Any play may be challenged before the next team starts a turn. If the play challenged is unacceptable, the challenged team takes back their tiles and loses that turn. If the play challenged is acceptable, the challenging team loses their next turn. All words (not just one) made in one play are challenged simultaneously. If any word is unacceptable, the entire play is unacceptable. Only one turn is lost on any challenge.

## SCORING

The scorekeeper tallies each team's score, entering it after each turn. The score value of each letter is indicated by a number at the bottom of the tile. The score value of a blank is zero.

The score for each turn is the sum of the letter values in each word(s) formed or modified on that turn, plus the additional points obtained from the placing letters on premium squares.

**Premium Letter Squares:** A light blue square doubles the score of a letter placed on it; a dark blue square triples the letter score.

**Premium Word Squares:** The score for an entire word is doubled when one of its letters is placed on a pink square; it is tripled when one of its letters is placed on a red square. Include premiums for double or triple letter value, if any, before doubling or tripling the word score.

If a word covers two premium word squares, the score is doubled and then re-doubled (4 times the letter count), or tripled and then re-tripled (9 times the letter count).

**NOTE:** The center \* square is a pink square, which doubles the score for the first word.

Letter and word premiums count only on the turn in which they are played. On later turns, letters already played on the premium squares count at face value. When a blank tile is played on a pink or red, the value of the word is doubled or tripled, even though the blank itself has no score value.

When two or more words are formed in the same play, each is scored. The common letter is counted (with full premium value, if any) for each word. **BINGO!** If you play all 7 of your tiles on one turn, it's a Bingo. You score a premium of 50 points after totaling your score for the turn. The value of the tiles left on your rack when the game ends is deducted from your total score.