



## 2017 LiteracyCNY SCRABBLE Mania Tournament Play and Rules

Teams of up to 10 people are seated at a table with a SCRABBLE® game board and a standard bag of 100 tiles.

There will be three (3) 20-minute rounds of competitive team play. Your goal is to build the highest scoring board in the allotted time and in compliance with tournament rules.

At the beginning of each round, all teams will be given the same instructions for starting the board. You may be asked to place a starter word or phrase on the board, or you may be asked to place specific tiles on specific squares. These starter tiles must remain in place during the round. Teams may use any other letter from the bag of tiles at any time during the round. Words are formed from left to right, or down, never diagonally or upwards. Except for the starter tiles, you may change the placement of words and letters during the round; however, at the end of the round, **all touching letters must create a word, all words must intersect, and there may be no freestanding letters on the board.** Words that do not intersect, invalid words, and freestanding letters will be deducted from your team's final score. **Although you may be asked to place a starter phrase on the board, you must construct your board with words – not phrases.**

Each table should designate a scribe who will record the team name and actual game play on the SCRABBLE Mania game diagram at the end of the round. The two blank tiles may be used as any letter. When playing a blank, the player must state which letter it represents. The blank tiles will count as 0 points at the end of the round, regardless of which letter they represent. The score for each word is the sum of the letter values in each word, plus the additional points obtained from placing letters on premium squares. Premium squares will be counted for every word in which they appear. The point value of unplayed tiles will be deducted from the team score.

Each round will last 20 minutes. A 5-minute warning will be given before the end of play. When the end of the round is called, all play must stop. The LiteracyCNY Sheriffs will then collect the completed SCRABBLE Mania game diagram from each table scribe and submit it to the LiteracyCNY Judges for scoring. At this point, each team must remove all tiles from the board and await the instructions for the next round. When all scores are available for each round, they will be displayed on a screen in the tournament room. The team scoring the highest point total within the allotted time for that round will win prizes. A grand prize will be awarded to the highest overall tournament score.

**During the play a team may choose to make an extra donation to LiteracyCNY by:**

- **Buying an extra tile for one round of play (standard tiles will be available for purchase in each round).**
- **Buying a “cheat sheet” of two-letter words, q words, and i “dump” words.**

**The following will not be permitted and will disqualify teams from the tournament:**

- Bringing lists of words into the tournament room.
- Using hand-held devices or dictionaries to look up words during the tournament.
- Visiting the Judges’ scoring room.

If you have questions about play during the Tournament, please ask the LiteracyCNY Sheriffs or visit the “Ask Me” table.

The LiteracyCNY Judges use scoring software to verify the accuracy and legitimacy of words. The scoring software is based on The Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

Please note that this is not an official SCRABBLE® Tournament. Any scoring or other disputes will be decided **at the sole discretion of LiteracyCNY**.