

The Toronto International Scrabble Open & 2nd Human vs. Computer Showdown

Thursday September 22 – Sunday September 25, 2011

The Bond Place Hotel in downtown Toronto

The Toronto International Scrabble Open:

26 game tournament rated by NASPA and WESPA. One open division. **First prize \$3000 minimum.** 6 rounds Thursday starting at 1 pm; 8 rounds Friday and Saturday starting at 9 am; 4 rounds Sunday starting at 9 am. Players will be scheduled to play computer opponents in the Human vs. Computer Showdown. Dictionary – Collins Scrabble Words (SOWPODS), 5 points per word penalty for incorrect challenges, NASPA rules. Registration limited to 100. Director John Chew, pairings tsh.

Entry Fee

\$250 (US or CAD)

Early bird bonus – deduct \$20 if paid or postmarked by May 1, 2011

Late registration fee – add \$20 if paid after September 15, 2011

Prizes

First Place: \$3000 minimum.

Other place and category prizes, including class prizes for groups of lower-rated players.

Estimated prizes based on registration

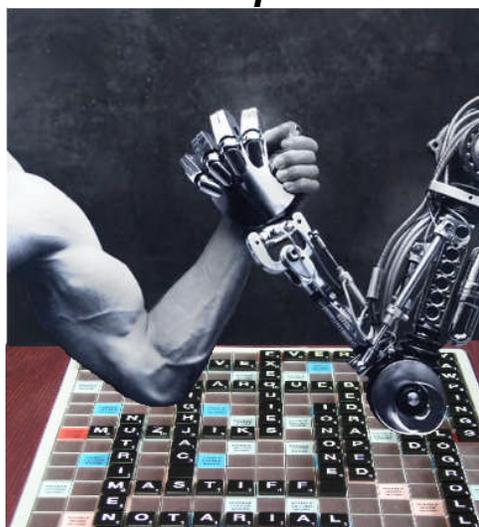
Entries	First Place	Total Prize Pool
60	\$4000	\$10,000
80	\$5000	\$13,000
100	\$6000	\$16,000

Human vs. Computer Scrabble Showdown - some details

Computers have challenged humans at chess and checkers – and even Jeopardy. Can computers beat humans at Scrabble? The first [Human vs. Computer Scrabble Showdown](#) came down to the wire, with Quackle edging Dave Boys in the fifth game. Time for a rematch!

Over the course of the 26-round Toronto Scrabble Open each entrant will be paired with computer programs during two rounds. The leading Scrabble-playing computer programs, Maven and Quackle, are being invited to compete.

Human vs. Computer Showdown



Exact format tba – the goal is to have every entrant in the TISO play Maven and Quackle once each during the first 22 rounds.

Best-of-four Final - Sunday afternoon,
The top computer vs. the human winner of the Toronto International Scrabble Open.

Showdown Trophy will be awarded, cash and other prizes tba.

Computer players will have human assistants to draw tiles, place plays on the board, and operate the clock. If you are playing a game against one of the computer players it will seem to you just like playing another person. The only difference is that the computer program is designating its plays.

After 26 rounds, one computer player and one human player will be left standing: the human winner of the TISO, and the computer player with the best record against humans. They will play a best-of-four finals. If they tie at two wins apiece, spread will determine the victor. We will relay the moves of each game to an observation room for everyone to watch, as well as providing live internet coverage.

The human winner of the TISO will win the first prize money as detailed above. There will be an additional cash prize for the winner of the Human vs. Computer Showdown, that will go either to the human or the owner(s) of the computer program.

Hotel

The TISO is being held at the [Bond Place Hotel](#) in downtown Toronto. The Bond Place is beside the Eaton Centre shopping mall, steps from Toronto's theatre district, and accessible to all downtown Toronto sites by public transit. We have secured very attractive rates: standard room with two twin beds for \$79 a night; deluxe room with one queen bed and one double, or one queen and two twins for \$99 a night (for two people, additional persons are \$20 per night) plus local taxes. These rates are available for three days before and three days after the event as well. The cut-off date for our hotel block is August 22, 2011. Call the hotel direct at 1-800-268-9390 and specify Toronto International Scrabble to get the group rates.

Registration

Registrations for the Toronto International Scrabble Open are being accepted now:

Tony Leah
33 Mill Street
Ajax, ON L1S 6J9
CANADA.

PayPal to tonyleah@rogers.com will be accepted from **cash or bank acct.**

If paying by PayPal please do not include the word Scrabble in your message.

You must be a member of NASPA to play. NASPA membership is available for \$30 for one year. If you have never had a North American rating, you can get a trial NASPA membership for \$15 for 6 months. If you wish you can add payment for NASPA membership to your entry fee. If you would like confirmation of your registration, please also include your email address.

Registration deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2011

More info: Tony Leah: 416-274-1875, tonyleah@rogers.com

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Name _____ NASPA/WESPA Rating _____

Address _____

State/Prov. _____ Postal/Zip Code _____ Country _____

Phone No. _____ Email _____ Fee enclosed _____