

Hong Kong Scrabble Players Association

Tournaments Regulation

2021-2022 Executive Committee Meeting (4 May 2022) Enacted

Section I: General**1. Definition**

In this Regulation:

“Association” shall mean the Hong Kong Scrabble Players Association.

“Executive Committee” shall mean the Executive Committee of the Association (once known as “Main Committee”).

“Regulation” shall mean the Tournaments Regulation of the Association.

“Season” means the period from 1 September of a year to 31 August of the next year.

2. Tournaments Classification Regulation repealed

The Tournaments Classification Regulation, enacted in the 2nd Main Committee Meeting in 2015-2016 and amended in the 2nd Main Committee Meeting in 2016-2017, is hereby repealed upon the enactment of this Regulation.

3. Aim

The Regulation aims at listing out and setting guidance for certain tournaments organised by the Association and setting criteria for acknowledging and rating tournaments.

4. Amendment

The Regulation shall be amended or rescinded at any Executive Committee meeting with recommendation from any Executive Committee member, and a motion carried by a simple majority.

5. Interpretation

The interpretation of the Regulation shall rest with the Executive Committee.

Section II: Local tournaments recognised as Major Tournaments**1. Local tournaments recognised as Major Tournaments**

(a) The following tournaments are recognised as the Major Tournaments of the Association:

- i. The Hong Kong Scrabble Championship (all editions since 2016); and
- ii. The Hong Kong Scrabble Challenge (all editions since 2015).

(b) The following tournaments, organised for youths and students studying in any primary or secondary school in Hong Kong, are also recognised as Major Tournaments:

- i. The Inter-School Scrabble Championship (all editions since 2004);
- ii. The Hong Kong Youth Scrabble Champions Tournament (all editions since 2015); and
- iii. The Association Cup (all editions since 2016).

(c) The Primum Cup Invitational Scrabble Competition organised in 2014 is retrospectively recognised as a Major Tournament.

2. Record keeping of local tournaments recognised as Major Tournaments

The President (or a person delegated by him or her for the purposes of this section) shall maintain a list of winners of local tournaments recognised as Major Tournaments on the website of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall ensure that good record is kept for the local tournaments recognised as Major Tournaments.

3. The Hong Kong Scrabble Championship

- (a) The Hong Kong Scrabble Championship shall be open to all players with Hong Kong Representation Statuses under the Hong Kong Player Statuses Regulation.
- (b) There shall only be one Hong Kong Scrabble Championship per season. The Executive Committee retains the discretion not to organise it in any year.
- (c) The Hong Kong Scrabble Championship must be an in-person tournament.
- (d) The winner of the Hong Kong Scrabble Championship shall be regarded as the Hong Kong Champion and receive the Lion Rock Trophy. All winners since the first edition in 2016 are recognised as the Hong Kong Scrabble Champions in their respective years.

4. The Hong Kong Scrabble Challenge

- (a) It shall be the aim to have overseas players competing in the Hong Kong Scrabble Challenge.
- (b) There shall only be one Hong Kong Scrabble Challenge per season. The Executive Committee retains the discretion not to organise it in any year.
- (c) The Hong Kong Scrabble Challenge must be an in-person tournament.
- (d) All winners since the first edition in 2015 are recognised as winning a Major Tournament of the Association.

5. The Hong Kong Youth Scrabble Champions Tournament

All winners of a category since the first edition in 2015 are recognised as the Hong Kong Youth Scrabble Champions in their respective years.

Section III: Tournaments classification**1. Classification of tournaments acknowledged by the Association**

- (a) There shall be three types of tournaments acknowledged by the Association: HKSPA-rated tournaments, HKSPA-recognised tournaments, and HKSPA-supported tournaments.
- (b) Different divisions in a tournament may be classified differently.
- (c) The Executive Committee has the power (a) to acknowledge any tournament as HKSPA-rated tournaments, HKSPA-recognised tournaments, or HKSPA-supported tournaments, and (b) to change the classification any time before the tournament. The Executive Committee may delegate such power to a person or a committee.
- (d) All tournaments acknowledged by the Association shall be listed on the Association's website.

- (e) HKSPA-rated tournaments shall be included in the calculation of HKSPA Ratings. HKSPA-recognised tournaments and HKSPA-supported tournaments must not be included in the calculation of HKSPA Ratings.

2. HKSPA-rated tournaments

A tournament may only be acknowledged as an HKSPA-rated tournament if all the following criteria are satisfied:

- (a) The tournament is an in-person tournament;
- (b) The tournament follows the latest WESPA Rules or any other rules deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee;
- (c) The tournament uses a dictionary deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee;
- (d) All games are to be played with 2 competitors with no third party assistance; and
- (e) The tournament is announced reasonably in advance, and anyone who wishes to join the tournament must be able to contact the organiser or person-in-charge for further details.

3. HKSPA-recognised tournaments

HKSPA-recognised tournaments are tournaments not meeting any of the criteria to be acknowledged as HKSPA-rated tournaments but are nonetheless fair and recommendable. A tournament may only be acknowledged as an HKSPA-recognised tournament if all the following criteria are satisfied:

- (a) The tournament is an in-person tournament;
- (b) All games are to be played with 2 competitors with no third party assistance; and
- (c) The tournament is announced reasonably in advance, and anyone who wishes to join the tournament must be able to contact the organiser or person-in-charge for further details.

Note: for example, a tournament designed for primary school students may not be able to follow many WESPA Rules. A tournament may include too many novices with no prior Scrabble experience. The Executive Committee may think that the above tournaments shall not be included in the calculation of HKSPA Ratings. The Executive Committee may nonetheless decide to support such tournaments and recognise them.

4. HKSPA-supported tournaments

HKSPA-supported tournaments are tournaments not meeting any of the criteria to be acknowledged as HKSPA-recognised tournaments but are worthy of the Association's support.

Note: for example, an online tournament or a tournament in which games are to be played with 4 competitors can be acknowledged as an HKSPA-supported tournament.

5. Tournaments not acknowledged by the Association

The Association does not recommend players to join the tournaments not acknowledged by the Association.

Section IV: Major International Tournaments

1. Major International Tournaments

The following tournaments are recognised as the Major International Tournaments:

- (a) The WESPA Championship (since 2015);
- (b) The WESPA Youth Cup (previously known as the “World Youth Scrabble Championship”, since 2006);
- (c) The East Asian Scrabble Championship (since 2017); and
- (d) Any World Scrabble Championship endorsed by Mattel (since 1991).

2. Qualification mechanisms for Major International Tournaments

The Executive Committee shall implement a fair mechanism to select the Hong Kong representatives in the Major International Tournaments if there is a quota for Hong Kong representatives in such tournaments.

3. Record keeping of Major International Tournaments

The President (or a person delegated by him or her for the purposes of this section) shall maintain a list of Hong Kong representatives in Major International Tournaments on the website of the Association.

The Executive Committee shall ensure that good record is kept for the Hong Kong representatives in Major International Tournaments.