

British Elimination Scrabble Tournament (BEST) 2012 : **Rules and Entry Form**

Tenth BEST tournament! Discounted entry fee to ten-time entrants and first-time entrants!

Introduction

BEST is a national knockout Scrabble tournament with eight regionally-based groups and a UK-wide knockout stage from quarter-final onwards. Matches are played at the convenience of both players over a series of games, from 7 in the early rounds to 19 in the final. The tournament takes place over approximately six months from April to October and regularly attracts many Scrabble players from UK and Ireland, with ratings ranging from under 100 to the very top players. Ratings prizes ensure that all players have a realistic chance of a prize.

Format

There will be eight regionally-based groups, each comprising up to 16 players. Some groups may have more players than others, and average rating of the players in each group will vary. The draw for groups will be seeded by rating.

As in previous years, invitations are sought from Northern Ireland/Ireland, and if sufficient entries are received one group will be based there. Should a group prove viable the group winner will need to be prepared to travel to the mainland for the quarter final round and subsequent rounds if they get through. The quarter final involving the Irish winner could potentially be scheduled just before or after the BMSC if that is convenient.

The eight group winners will qualify for the quarter-finals of BEST. The draw for the quarter-finals onwards will be random, and will take place in July/August. The final will take place on the weekend of October 20th/21st, location to be confirmed. The first and second round matches will be best of 7 games, the third round best of 9, and the zone final will be best of 11. The quarter-finals will be best of 15 games; the semi-finals best of 17 games, and the final best of 19 games.

Round completion dates

Closing date for entries	March 31st	Group finals completed	July 29th
Round 1 completed	April 29th	Quarter-finals completed	September 2nd
Round 2 completed	May 27th	Semi-finals completed	September 30th
Round 3 completed	July 1st	Final	October 20 th /21st

If a group has only two rounds prior to the group final, rounds 2 and 3 dates should be used for the first two rounds. In exceptional circumstances, and with the organisers' permission, these dates can be extended, but it is strongly recommended that they are kept to. If it turns out to be impossible for both players to agree on a date for their match, the game will be awarded to whichever player was willing to play on the closing date for the round.

Adjudications

It is envisaged that most matches will use Zyzyva software for self-adjudication of challengers. If traditional adjudication is being used an independent adjudicator should be present at the match.

Prize money:

The prize fund is dependent on the number of entries. In 2011, based on 76 entries, the prize fund was:

- Ratings prize £25
- Losing quarter-finalist £50
- Losing semi-finalist £125
- Runner-up £250
- Winner £500

Ratings prizes will be awarded to the six players, regardless of group, whose tournament rating most exceeds their rating at the start of the tournament. It is eligible only to players with ratings of 170 and under, and cannot be won by group winners.

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Notes: The prizes are funded from entry money. Any unused funds will be added to the prize fund for the final. If players withdraw from the tournament without playing their matches, they risk forfeiting any prize money for which they are eligible; any forfeited money would be added to the prize fund for the final.

Entering and paying for BEST 2012

The entry fee for each round in the BEST is £10. In 2012, to commemorate the tenth time BEST has been held:

- Entry fee for those who have entered all nine previous tournaments will be reduced to £5
- Entry fee for first-time entrants will be reduced to £8

Entry fee for subsequent rounds will revert to £10.

To enter, please send a cheque payable to 'BEST' to Ed Martin at 59 Milton Rd, East Sheen, London, SW14 8JP, along with your home address, email address and phone number (use the form at the bottom of this sheet if you wish). Alternatively, you can send your entry fee via Paypal to edwardmartin100@gmail.com (remember to allow for Paypal fees). If you win in Round 1, you pay a further £10 to take part in Round 2; and so on. So every time you win a match send a cheque or Paypal transfer for £10 to Ed at the addresses above. **Note:** If you fail to pay promptly, you will be contacted and given a final deadline for payment. Failure to pay by this deadline will result in expulsion from the tournament.

Rules

- **Rules:** WESPA Rules version 2.0 will be used.
- **Challenges:** Five point penalty challenge will be used for all games. Where a challenge is unsuccessful there will be a penalty of five points per word which is added on to the move score.
- **Concessions:** A player can offer to concede a game at any point, although their opponent is not obliged to accept the concession. The score at the moment of concession should be recorded (see "Deciding game" below).
- **Deciding game:** If a match requires a deciding game (for example, if a 1st round match is tied at 3-3), the player who is ahead on spread starts in the final game. If the spreads are level, the players will draw for start.
- **Tied match:** If a match is tied on games (for example 3.5 each in Round 1), the player who is ahead on spread wins the match.

Reporting results

Please send the results of matches, including final match score, to edwardmartin100@gmail.com, or by post to 59 Milton Road, East Sheen, London SW14 8JP

If you have any questions, please contact either:

- Ed Martin Tel: 07583 032595, e-mail: edwardmartin100@gmail.com or
- Evan Simpson Tel: 024 7632 0198, e-mail: me@evansimpson.co.uk

Name:..... Address:.....

Tel .No (home).....

Tel No (mobile).....

E-mail address:.....

This tournament is organised under the auspices of the BEST Scrabble Club, and has been approved for ABSP rating. Membership of the ABSP for 2012 costs £15, or £7.50 for under-18s. For more information contact the membership secretary Anne Ramsay at 8 Glen Clova Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 6UL. The organisers reserve the right to refuse entries and to adjust the regional groupings. The decision of the organisers in any matter is final. Entry to the tournament constitutes acceptance of these rules.