

12th WESPA Youth Cup

(previously called World Youth Scrabble® Championship)
27 to 29 November 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

This is the twelfth event run by WESPA Youth Committee, and will be the largest yet. We retain the free-entry quota of ten players for each WESPA country, but encourage you all to send many more than this. To attract more players, the entry fee for Non-Quota players has been reduced to US\$80 for this year.

Date: 12:30pm Monday 27th November to 4pm Wednesday 29th November 2017

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Venue: Summit USJ Mall, approx. 20 kms west of the centre of Kuala Lumpur <http://www.summit-usj.com/>

Accommodation: The adjacent hotel is called Summit Hotel Subang USJ <http://summithotelusj.com>

They offer rooms for up to 4 people, but are not the cheapest. Contact Karen Richards for discounted group booking prices.

There are many other options, including home stays. (Details to be published shortly)

Meals: Meals/snacks are not provided, but are available from adjacent shops.

Flights: Tiger, Jetstar, Air Asia, and Malindo are some of the cheapest. If you want a special quote for a group fare discount with Malindo Air, please email me, and I will refer you to the appropriate person.

Format:

Dictionary: Collins Scrabble Words 2015 (CSW15)

Rules: WESPA v 3

Free Challenge (i.e. no penalty for challenging a correct word)

Draw: Modified Swiss Draw, with resets. Some games will be lagged, to allow for short wait times between games. Gibson Rule applies

24 games (Monday afternoon to Wednesday mid-afternoon)

Mon - 7 games, Tues - 11 games, Wed - 6 games

Quotas: Any country that is not a WESPA member may send 2 players, without paying an entry fee. Additional players pay an entry fee of US\$80 or equivalent. The host country, Malaysia, may send 20 players, without paying an entry fee. **All WESPA countries have 10 free entries.** We welcome players in excess of quotas, who will pay US\$80 entry fee. National associations will advise the organisers which players gain free entry, and who will be required to pay the entry fee.

Cost of WESPA Youth Cup: All players and parents/ chaperons are responsible for booking and payment of their own transport and accommodation. There is no entry fee for players who have been entered by their national Scrabble association, as part of national quotas. However, they still need to pay for transport, accommodation, and meals.

Entry fee: For non-quota players – **US\$80** (approximately MYR360)

If entry is submitted late, there is also a **late fee**. Entry fees are payable before play commences (i.e. at registration, or earlier). If payment is made in Ringgit, the conversion rate at the time of payment will apply.

Late fee: Players entered after 15th October must pay a late fee equivalent to **US\$40** (approx. MYS180). This may be in addition to non-quota fees. Payment must be received before play commences.

Qualifying: National associations will establish local qualifying criteria (which vary between countries, but are often based on a rating system). Countries should set their own criteria and quotas for those receiving subsidies/ sponsorship, and advise organisers of any “non-qualifying” players, who must pay an entry fee.

Non-qualifying (or non-quota) players: Anyone may enter, even if they do not enter through a National Association. However, an entry fee will be charged (US\$80 or equivalent). **They must also convince organisers that they have sufficient experience to compete.**

Players who have not qualified in the free quota, according to their countries' selection criteria, are designated with “NQ” next to their names in the souvenir booklet and website listings. However, they receive the same benefits, e.g. t-shirt, and play in the same event as everyone else. They are eligible for all prizes, including the team prize, if they finish in the top three for their country.

Beginners: Coaches/ parents are asked to prepare players properly for high-level competition. One effective way to do this is to compete in normal tournaments, against adults, before attempting this event. However, even competing in a school tournament prior to this will be useful. At past events, a few inexperienced players caused holdups and disruptions. They were slow, consistently scored inaccurately or could not agree on final scores, and were unfamiliar with basic rules. Some displayed bad sportsmanship, including a loud verbal argument during play (that sometimes happens with adults too!) An important Scrabble tournament is no place to “turn on the waterworks”. Other players should not be required to cope with the tears of an

immature child - crying is considered manipulative, as is any other form of intimidation. For the sake of everyone else, please ensure your child can score accurately. They must understand basic rules (e.g. how to challenge) and display good sportsmanship. If they appear to be floundering, they may be asked to sit out some games to facilitate smooth running of this tournament.

Prize Structure:

- **Prize money for this event will be approximately double that of past WYSC events, due to the generosity of Elie Dangoor, Chair of WESPA, plus other benefactors – full details will be published once we have an idea of number of participants.**

Trophies (plus in some cases, prize money) for:

Placing – top 10 finishers

Age Group Champions – best player born 1/1/2002 or later, 1/1/2004 or later, 1/1/2006 or later, 1/1/2008 or later, and 1/1/2010 or later (players may receive more than one award, e.g. an age award as well as an overall placing)

Encouragement Award – youngest player to finish in the top 25 (usually aged around 12)

High Word and High Game

Most improved player over the past year: Results from WYSC 2016 will be compared with the results from this year, and the player who has jumped up the most number of places, will be awarded this new trophy. (**# new award**)

Best Novice - not competed in this event before.

Best Player from a New Country (i.e. from country which has not competed before)

Best National Team – results will be collated from the top three finishers from each country.

Those with fewer than three players will not be included

Chairman's Award - player who competed in the most WESPA-rated games since 1 April 2017. (**#new**)

Annuy Ploysangngam Award: In memory of the single most influential individual in the Scrabble world: This award will be made to an individual who is working hard to recruit and train more young players. (**#new**)

Prior to WESPA YC:

Princess Cup (Thailand) Friday to Sunday 24, 25, 26 November

Air Asia has cheap flights from Bangkok (Don Mueang airport) to Kuala Lumpur – either the last flight on Sunday, or one of the first two on Monday, will easily allow you to compete in both Princess Cup and WESPA YC. The flight is just over 2 hours.

There is an overnight train from Bangkok to Kuala Lumpur, with some sleeping facilities.

Adult events during WESPA YC: **Please bring equipment if possible*

There are also two Side tournaments during WESPA YC

Monday pm and Tuesday – 2-day tournament, 16 games, free challenge.

Open, modified Swiss Draw, with reset/s (i.e. some repeats)

Wednesday am – 7-game tournament (round robins), free entry, 5-point penalty challenge for the top group/s.

After WESPA YC: There will also be an international Open event, for adults and youth combined, over three or four days. Would you like to (try to) beat me? If so, then please stay until Sunday 3rd December.

Details of all tournaments will be posted on WESPA website www.wespa.org under “tournaments”.

Entry: To enter, contact karen.d.richards@gmail.com by **October 15th, 2017**.

Late entries are not guaranteed acceptance, due to lack of equipment, space etc. A late fee will be charged. Once correctly entered, you will receive a form to complete promptly, asking for information about yourself and your playing experience. Some of this will be included in the **souvenir booklet. This is required by 31st October.**

Plan to be there – catch up with old friends, or make new friends from all over the world.

Karen D Richards

Chair, Youth Committee

WESPA (World English-language Scrabble Players Association)