THE TIE-BREAKER ROUND, EXPLAINED

Duplicate Scrabble

How the top players in each division settle it — with the luck of the draw taken out of the equation.

Same tiles, same board — pure skill decides

WHAT IS DUPLICATE SCRABBLE?

Every player faces the **exact same board and the exact same tiles** at the same moment. Instead of playing an opponent, each player writes down the **highest-scoring word** they can find for that position — the best play wins the points.

WHY WE RUN IT AS A TIE-BREAKER

- Removes the **luck of the draw** — nobody gets a better rack than anyone else
- Cleanly measures **vocabulary and board vision**
- Everyone is tested on **identical situations**, side by side

WHO PLAYS IT After the initial Scrabble rounds, the **top 6–8 players in each division** go through the Duplicate round to separate the leaders fairly.

One situation at a time, on the clock

1

Situation shown

A single board position (one "situation" sheet) is handed to **every player at once** .

2

Write the best word

Within a **fixed time limit** , each player writes their highest-scoring play on the sheet.

3

Sheets collected

Time's up — all sheets are **returned together** and scored against the position.

4

Next situation

The following sheet is handed out. Repeat for **~8–10 situations** in total.

SCORING Points from every situation are added up. Highest total across all situations tops the Duplicate round — the tie-breaker among the division's leaders.

What a situation & answer sheet look like

Player Name (in capital) :

_____

Rack 2

A$_1$	L$_1$	N$_1$	P$_3$	Q$_{10}$	T$_1$	U$_1$

From the above rack, make the highest scoring word possible in your opinion and place it on the board

WORD : _____

Write the word on the board also

WORD SCORE : _____

TRIPLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			TRIPLE WORD SCORE
	DOUBLE WORD SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE	
		DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE		
DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE
				DOUBLE WORD SCORE						DOUBLE WORD SCORE				
	TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE	
		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		
TRIPLE WORD SCORE		T$_1$	H$_4$	R$_1$	E$_1$	A$_1$	D$_2$				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			TRIPLE WORD SCORE
		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		
	TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE	
				DOUBLE WORD SCORE						DOUBLE WORD SCORE				
DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE
		DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE		
	DOUBLE WORD SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE	
TRIPLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			TRIPLE WORD SCORE

EXAMPLE SITUATION — BOARD POSITION & YOUR RACK