

NASC 2015 Member Survey Feedback

August 2015



Brief summary of Feedback

The NASC 2015 survey was open for two weeks, from the last day of the NASC (August 5) through August 20. All members were emailed through our iContact email list and asked to fill out the survey. It was also shared on the NASPA Member Concerns Facebook group on August 6, on the NASPA-PRO listserv on August 10, and linked from the front page of the NASPA website.

A total of 342 surveys were submitted. We identified three duplicates and one unidentified response (no NASPA ID, no real name); deleting these four entries, 338 survey results were analyzed. Of NASC attendees, 169 players and 7 staff members completed the survey; 162 non-attendees completed the survey. This represents about 12% of our current paid NASPA members.

The Championship Committee reviewed every feedback statement submitted. Following is a summary of the feedback provided, including several tables and graphic representations of feedback in key areas, as well as some of the free-response answers.

The major area of dissatisfaction with the tournament was the playoff format. A small number of NASC attendees (29) reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the format, and 29 were neutral with respect to the format. But the overwhelming majority of attendees (118) reported levels of dissatisfaction. Changing the format was also the most common response to the question asking "If you could change just one thing about the NASC, what would it be."

Despite the negative reaction to the format for the event, nearly half of attendee respondents reported a preference for a variation of a playoff style format. Slightly more than half (51%) reported a preference for returning to a non-playoff format. Non-attendee respondents reported a stronger preference for returning to the previous format, with 64% expressing a preference for that format. Numerous respondents suggested format ideas, further illustrating the diversity of opinions regarding ideal NASC format. Numerous respondents were as concerned with the lack of input sought in changing the format.

The Championship Committee will review this information with the Advisory Board, and will determine whether the information provided is sufficient to make a format decision for the 2016 NASC, or whether additional polling data should be solicited from the membership. The Championship Committee will continue to address this matter with the Advisory Board, and will keep the membership abreast of planning and decisions in this matter.

Other areas of the tournament were generally very well received. Respondents expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the knowledge, fairness and helpfulness of tournament staff, prefer the current schedule of 7 games per day, beginning at 9:00 a.m., and were pleased with the after-hours events. Respondents also reported a high degree of satisfaction with written and verbal announcements and the speed and accuracy of issuing pairings.

The responses to the question asking "What was your favorite thing about the NASC" reflected our common appreciation for each other. Camaraderie, seeing old friends, making new friends, meeting people from across North America and international locations, and generally being part of our community's biggest event of the year was noted by numerous attendees.

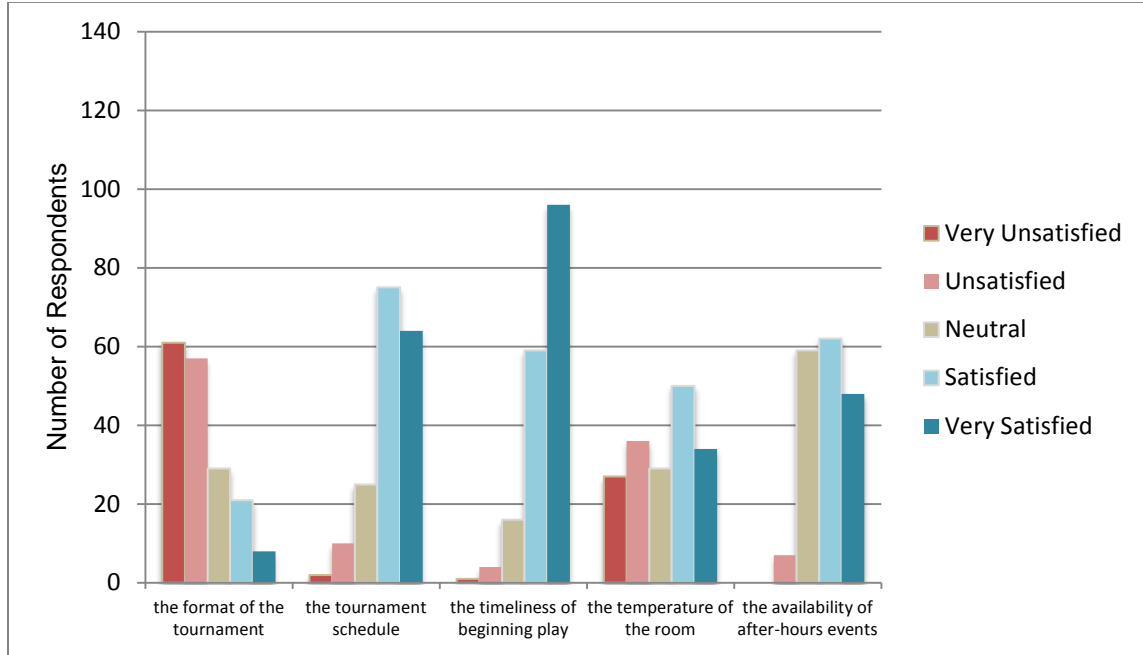
Thank you all for your feedback and we look forward to seeing you at events in the future.

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ATTENDEE FEEDBACK (n=176)

Levels of satisfaction are reported below on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being “very unsatisfied” and 5 being “very satisfied”

Rate your satisfaction with...



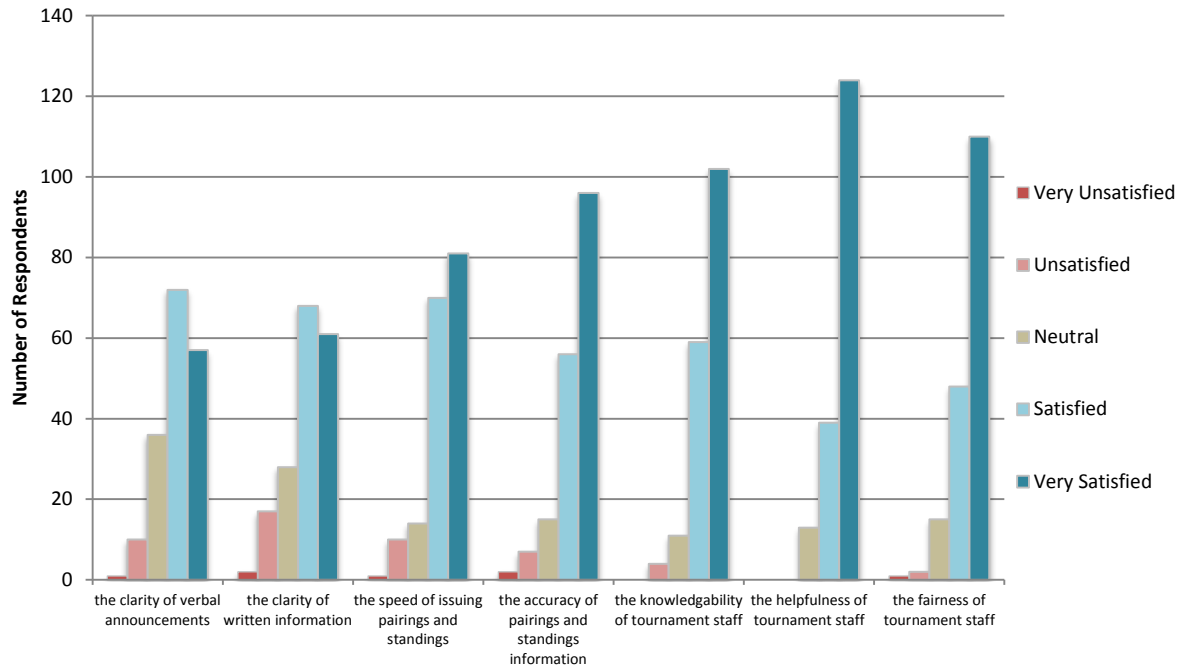
	Mean	Std. Deviation
Format	2.19	1.17
Schedule	4.07	0.91
Timeliness of beginning play	4.39	0.79
Temperature of the playing room	3.16	1.36
Availability of after-hours events	3.86	0.87

Dissatisfaction with the format was clear. While 29 attendees cited that they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied with the format,” another 29 were neutral and 118 reported levels of dissatisfaction. Changing the format was also the most common response to the question asking “if you could change just one thing about the NASC, what would it be.” Format is addressed in more detail below.

Players were generally happy with the playing space and the smoothness of the tournament operations. The temperature of the room was one issue of concern – 91 attendees considered it too cold, 57 just right, and 28 noted that their comfort level varied.

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Rate your satisfaction with...



	Mean	Std. Deviation
Clarity of verbal announcements	3.99	0.90
Clarity of written instructions	3.96	1.00
Speed of issuing pairings and standings	4.25	0.87
Accuracy of pairings & standings information	4.35	0.88
Knowledgeability of tourney staff	4.47	0.72
Helpfulness of tourney staff	4.63	0.62
Fairness of tourney staff	4.50	0.75

Satisfaction with directors, assistants, data entry, and others involved in running the event smoothly was high. There were 83 respondents involved in directors' calls during the tournament, and only four who expressed dissatisfaction with the director's ruling. The Tournament Director has reviewed each of these situations, and will address them with the appropriate parties, if warranted.

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What was your favorite aspect of the NASC?

The camaraderie, diversity and quality of competition, friendliness and competence of staff, and overall smooth running of the event were the most frequently cited favorite aspects of the NASC. Personal performance, live coverage, location, hotel and playing room quality, ancillary events (like trivia and the Musicale), generous prize fund, and format were also mentioned more than once. Here is a small sampling of the responses:

- Well organized, friendly people, convenient location, great venue.
- I'm in it mostly for the competition. Despite the drop-off in numbers, there was plenty of good Division I competition this year, and I appreciated the opportunity to play many of the top 20.
- I loved getting together with so many Scrabble players. We are so blessed to have people that sponsor and organize the tournaments.... it is so much work! Playing Scrabble day after day is a dream come true.
- It's still the NASC, in spite of all of the complaining before and after. I still feel that I am facing most of the best competition around.
- My favorite aspect of this and every Nationals is the excitement and anticipation of naming a new champion. Therefore, I appreciate details and fanfare that make the event feel like a major one, such as the scoreboard displayed on wide screen, the annotated games, and the roped off area for board I. Twitch TV with live commentary was a great addition this year.
- Watching the final two games between Matthew and Jesse. It reminded me of my first tournament in New Orleans in 2004, which was by far the best Nationals that I have ever attended.
- Venue was awesome, people were great, loved the live commentary by Robin and Jesse at the end.
- The bracket format was very exciting. It gave people something to aim for. It was nice to see better consideration given to the Collins division this year. The good (percentage-wise) prize money, annotation, etc. did not go unnoticed.
- I liked the substantial increase in the prize budget.
- How well organized it was, and how smoothly it ran.
- The opportunity to play for a major championship
- The suspense of the playoffs.
- Playing lots of new people
- My favorite aspect was meeting and playing new people from around the world.
- Loved seeing all my Scrabble friends and playing great players.
- Meeting players from 9 countries in the Collins division. Meeting the young players, wanting to compete in WYSC.
- Seeing old friends. Making new friends.
- As always, the camaraderie.

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If you could change one thing about the NASC, what would it be?

As mentioned earlier, revamping the format was on the top of the wish list. On a related note, many cited a desire for better, clearer communication before and during the event between leadership and participants, including asking players or Committees for their feedback regarding potential changes. The Championship Committee is making a concerted effort to be more transparent and inclusive moving forward. Other areas to change that were mentioned by more than one respondent included length of tourney, division structure, accessibility of location, proximity of playing room to hotel, prize structure, fees, temperature of room, and improvements to the live coverage. Here is a small sampling of the responses:

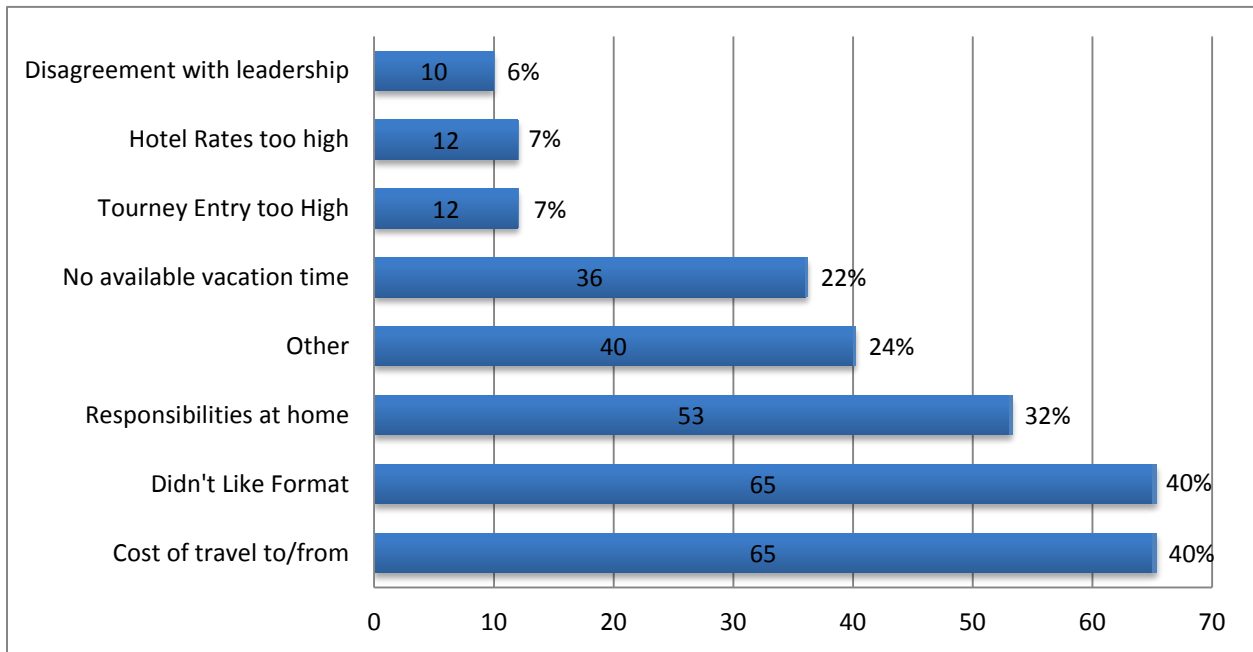
- Please revert to something akin to the old format. Based on the complaints I heard from players in my division and every other division, there was overwhelming loathing of the brackets format. Competitive events are most credible when there is a deserving champion. Every time a tier of playoffs is introduced, it reduced the chance of the most deserving person hoisting the trophy. People were especially upset that the decision seemed to be foisted up on them without the NASPA Advisory Board or the Tournament Committee being consulted. From what I gather the new format was supposed to make it more friendly for the media to cover. That did not happen. I saw just one lone photographer from the outside media during the Division #1 finals.
- I would change the format, and I know 90% of the other answers to this question will say the same thing, so hopefully that gets the message across. The top 8 format does bring a tad more excitement to the outside viewer, but with virtually no one watching the tournament outside players who watch every year, and the numbers of this year's nationals rapidly falling, i think it is much more important to have nationals be in a format that everyone likes, or at least is used to, so that the popularity of nationals, within our own scrabble community can go back to where it was, which in the present is the biggest improvement we're going to see.
- The format of the tournament. It was TERRIBLE! In baseball, MLB has made changes so more teams feel in it for longer in the season. That increased interest. The NASPA format this year does the exact opposite of that! I think that maybe a format which has a best 3 or 5 the last day is okay in Div 1. Every other division should be run that way it has always been run.
- More clarity and communication about the format and prize structure.
- Solicit player input on any format changes, and clearly communicate changes in tourney announcement.
- I'm not sure if I disliked the room temperature or format more... I would change both.
- The temperature in the ballroom was far too cold. Often went outside between games to warm up.
- More games on the last day. Five would be nice.
- End on a Sunday afternoon, with the final rounds on Sunday morning.
- More and better live coverage.
- In my opinion, the commuter fee of \$100 is excessive.
- I wish the NASC were more exciting and accessible to the general public and that we could get sponsorship for prizes.
- Miss the vendors, this was the once a year opportunity to purchase Scrabble stuff do not understand the rationale for eliminating them.

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NON-ATTENDEE FEEDBACK

Why didn't you attend?

Respondents could select one or more options for this question, and most cited multiple reasons. The 163 non-attendees provided 294 collective reasons for not attending. The chart below shows how many individual respondents selected each answer. Two reasons were cited most frequently: 65 of the 163 respondents answered that they didn't like the format; 65 answered that the cost to travel to Reno was too high.



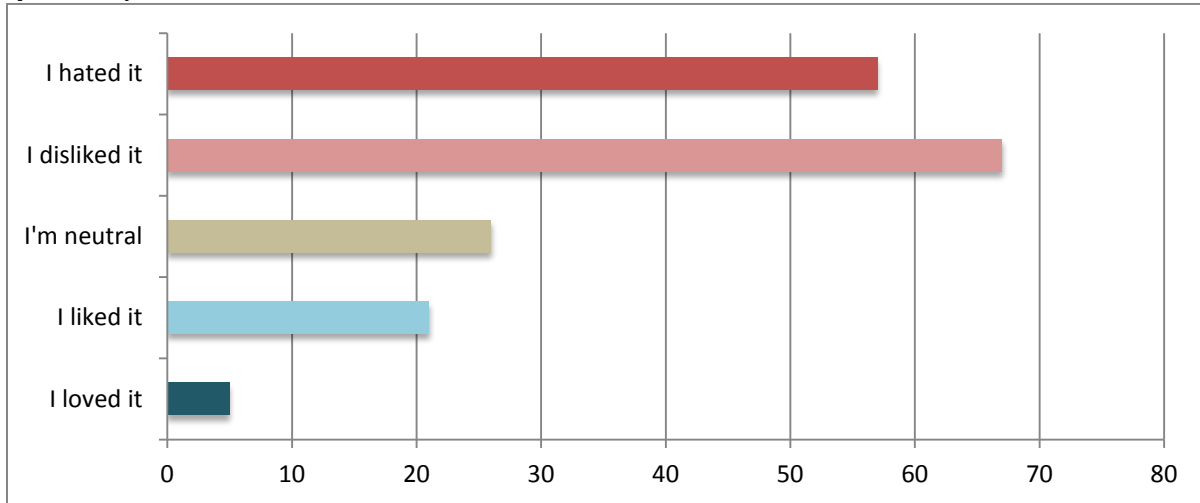
For those who wrote in reasons for "Other," reasons included conflicting plans, distance of travel required, financial constraints, health constraints, feeling unprepared for the event, and location.

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NASC Format

The first take-away from additional questions regarding format is that many did not like the NASC 2015 format. The second take-away is that there are widely differing opinions on a preferred format. The majority of respondents (57%) would like to see a return to a 31-game event with no play-offs, with this option more popular among non-attendees (64%) than attendees (51%). Of those who responded with a format other than those presented, most favored some form of play-off system. Conversation will continue regarding format to implement at the 2016 NASC.

Attendees: What was your reaction to this year's format? (slight variation from previous question)

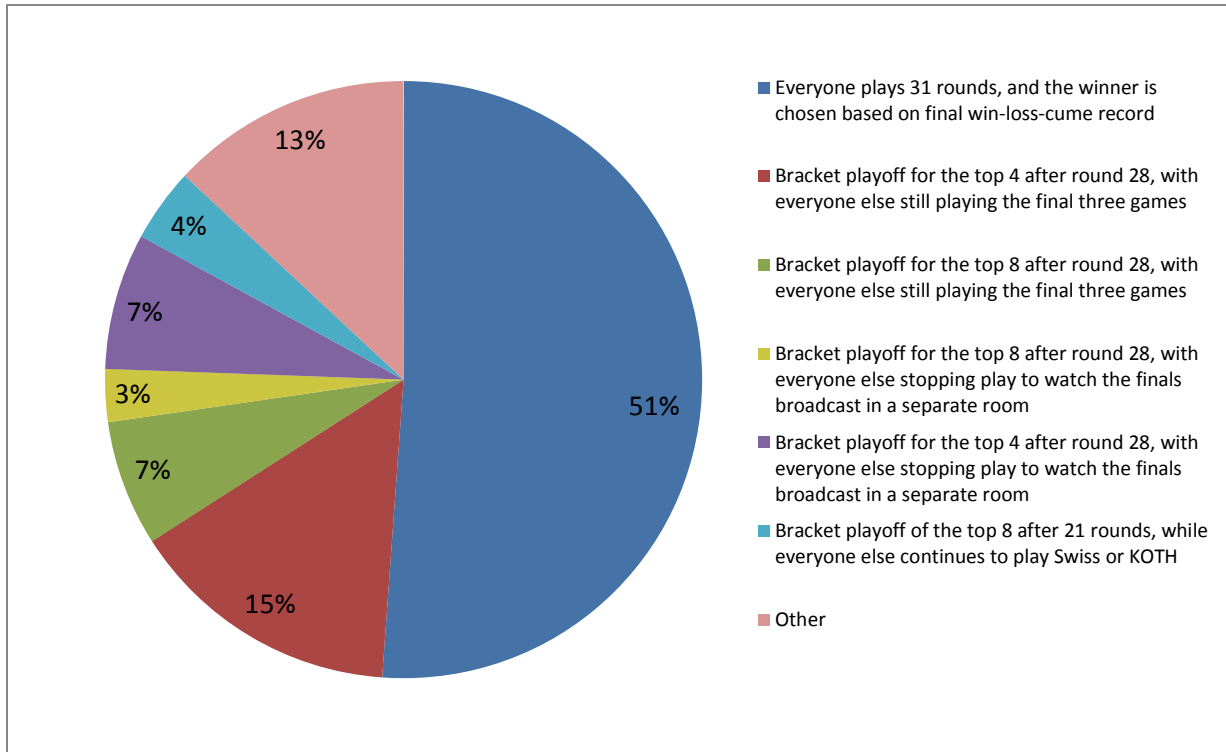


Format Preference, Attendees & Non-Attendees Combined

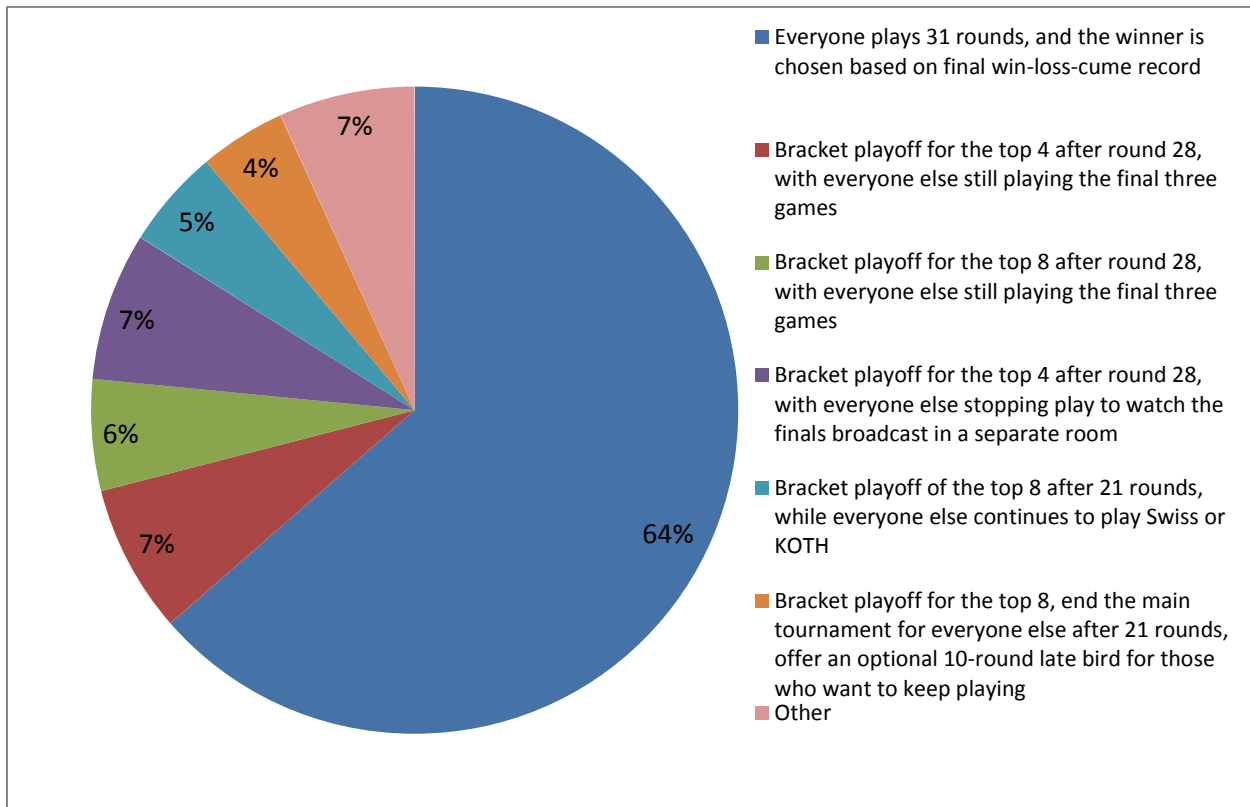
Format Option	# Attendees	# Non-Attendees	Total
Everyone plays 31 rounds, and the winner is chosen based on final win-loss-cume record	90 (51%)	103 (64%)	193 (57%)
Bracket playoff for the top 4 after round 28, with everyone else still playing the final three games	26 (15%)	12 (7%)	38 (11%)
Bracket playoff for the top 8 after round 28, with everyone else still playing the final three games	12 (7%)	9 (6%)	21 (6%)
Bracket playoff for the top 8 after round 28, with everyone else stopping play to watch the finals broadcast in a separate room	5 (3%)	0	5 (1%)
Bracket playoff for the top 4 after round 28, with everyone else stopping play to watch the finals broadcast in a separate room	13 (7%)	12 (7%)	25 (4%)
Bracket playoff of the top 8 after 21 rounds, while everyone else continues to play Swiss or KOTH	7 (4%)	8 (5%)	15 (4%)
Bracket playoff for the top 8 after 21 rounds, end the main tournament for everyone else after 21 rounds, offer an optional 10-round late bird for those who want to keep playing	0	7 (4%)	7 (2%)
Other	23 (13%)	11 (7%)	34 (10%)

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Format Preference of Attendees



Format Preference of Non-Attendees



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For those who answered "Other," here are their ideas:

- Do go back to the old format, where everyone plays 31 rounds. Then only the top 2 players (in each division) participate in playoffs. With this format players would have to have it emphasized that they would be required to stay an extra 2 hours at the venue (if they are 1st or 2nd). Awards could be immediately after the playoff games. A maximum of a 15-20 minute stoppage (prior to playoff starts). One possible benefit would be the ability to prepare the awards for all money winners. Yes some would leave immediately after game 31. But clarifying (in the player agreement) that any 1st or 2nd place finishers must be able to stay. If not relegated down a position and next in line plays for the division title.
- 28 or 31 round main event without matchplay, followed by a smaller one-day matchplay "media showcase" tourney for the top 8 in each division.
- Either the old format, or the option right above that one -- if I had to pick one, it would be final-four-after-28, all others stop playing, but the old format is just fine.
- After 28 rounds, the top two places play a best of 5 to determine the winner. Everyone else stops playing after 28 rounds. Either the format I just described, or the format where everyone plays 31 rounds with the winner determined by cumulative win/loss/spread record. The format this year was an abomination that overemphasized getting off to a good start. If you had the wrong run barely 2 days in, your 5-day tournament was unsalvageable.
- no opinion as long as everyone plays 31 games.
- 31 rounds play for everyone; the top 2 playoff in a 5 game final for Division 1 and CSW.
- Allow everyone to play 31 games no matter what. The more games, the better! There is too much randomness in Scrabble to use a bracket system. Four or five games aren't enough to overcome the luck factor, so it felt unfair. That said, it was exciting to watch the final game in division 1. Best of 5 (or even better, 7) in division 1 *only* seems worth it for the thrill of it. All other divisions should simply be 31 straight games.
- Prefer the old format for Divs 2-4 and Collins. Use the new format for Div 1 only.
- Playoff bracket after round 28 for Div 1. Everyone should do the old format.
- I won't spend time and money to attend with the possibility that 1/3 of my games may not be meaningful in the real competitive sense of having a chance to win my division (they'd probably be rendered meaningless anyway by my own poor play, but at least it won't be mandated). Go back to the old format, where everyone plays 31 rounds, and the winner is chosen based on final win-loss-cume record... but with one variation - if one of the reasons for the format switch was to try to generate publicity, why not take a cue from World Series of Poker and have the top eight finishers in div 1 TWL & CSW meet in playoffs a month or two after NASC? Another opportunity to attract media attention, get to know the finalists as real people, set up a robust web broadcasting system with expert commentators, etc....
- Use the existing format for Divisions 1 and CSW, and add a light 31-round top division to see who hates brackets enough to play for less money. Oh, and figure out a way to have the top 9 advance, so that CCC can be in the finals.
- 31 games as in previous years for all players except in Division 1, where the top 2 duke it out in a best of 3 (or best of 5) final, timed so other participants can watch the final game (or games) with live commentary by an articulate expert or two such as Jesse Matthews and/or Joel Sherman.
- For Division 1 (and CSW if possible): Offer a bracket playoff for the final 4 after round 28, with everyone else stopping play after day 4 to watch the finals broadcast in a separate room. For all other divisions: Go back to the old format, where everyone plays 31 rounds, and the winner is chosen based on final win-loss cume record.
- Bracket Playoff only for Division 1 and Collins (or Collins Div. 1, if there will be 2 Collins Divisions). Everyone else plays 31 games. Hold the final match of each top division (TWL 1 and Collins 1) after everyone else's games have been played.
- Bracket playoff for the final 4 after round 28, with everyone else still playing the final three games and then watching the finals broadcast in a separate room.
- Bracket for final 4 after round 25, best of 3. Round 29 begin best of 3 or best of 5 for championship.

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- I seriously reconsider the format that was used for this tournament. While I recognized that it allowed for more prizes, particularly minor prizes to 'encourage' those who tried, I believe the format was too cumbersome and difficult to follow. The divisions were too large, with too big a range in the qualifying rating. As an example Div 2 could easily have been two separate divisions with excellent competition for the respective groups. I fully support an 'elite' group of players be identified for for a meaningful play-off. This can be done in a manner similar to the Boston Tournament Premier Division. Perhaps it can include all players who have achieved an rating of 1900+ during the year. They would play in a similar format as the rest of the divisions, with a final play-off series for the two finalists at the end.
- 31 games for everyone, 3-game playoff for top two after 28. Perhaps if necessary, the third game of the playoff could start after the 31st game for everyone else so we could all watch the final deciding game.
- I liked the 2004 format. With everyone playing 30 games in 4 days, and then a playoff of the top 2 on day five that we could all watch.
- Either the old format (31 rounds) or bracket playoff starting after round 28. 21 rounds is not enough, and the final 10 rounds were not very exciting for me.
- I might consider top 8 after round 28, with everyone else still playing the final three, but this requires more thought and exploration; I wouldn't want to decide that right now. For example, it's not clear as stated with such a format what the top 8 would do at that point? Play QF, SF, and F? or play multiple matches as in Reno? I also might consider a format that allowed non-top-8 to play their full amount of games, but also be able to watch the final of division 1. In Reno it was not clear to me what was going on with division 1 after the 31 games were done. I showed up at the award ceremony and was surprised, but happy to see some of the final.
- Top 2 after 28 rounds play best of 3 or 5 final, while everyone else plays rounds 29-31 and prizes as high as 3rd place are still up for contention among everyone else.
- Honestly, I am torn between the standard 31 round structure or a structure with a light bracket playoff (2 or 4 people). But if a playoff is chosen, it should be after 28 games. 21 is way too few.
- Each player plays all games against as close to a mathematically even cross-section of players from the division based on incoming ratings. * Rounds 15-30 or 31 could use newly recalculated ratings * "Round 31" being a best of 3 or 5 for the top 2 would still be neat
- 30-32 games over 4 days, championship on day 5
- Offer a bracket playoff for the final 4 after round 28, with everyone else stopping play after day 4 to watch the finals broadcast in a separate room, and offer an optional 10-round late bird for those who want to keep playing. And do not end on Wednesday - why not continue through the weekend? So ideally I would make it 35 or more rounds from Sunday-Thursday, followed by top 4 playoffs & a side event. Playoffs to be best of 5 match.
- A bracket of 16 after day 3, two-game series for round of 16, 2 of 3 for quarterfinals, best of 5 for semis and championship.
- I want to play as many games as possible, all while being able to watch the finals. My recollection of New Orleans (and I believe Reno in 2005) was that we played an 8/7/8/7 format for a total of 30 games and then the finals was a best 2 out of 3 on day 5 (although I would prefer that it be a 3 out of 5).
- Don't care which of the formats is used as I'm unlikely ever to be in the top ten after round 21 or 28. This was my eleventh NSC, Players Championship, NASC event.
- Add an additional day. Playoff for top 8, end tournament after 28 rounds, optional 10-round late bird.
- The playoff format should be eliminated. A better way of eliminating players not in contention is to have a cut after the first two days; players who have won fewer than 7 games are of course rated on their first half performance, but participate in a new 17 game consolation event, with a modest prize structure, and start with a clean slate.
- Unsure of opinion.
- Undecided
- I don't care. Just make players happy.

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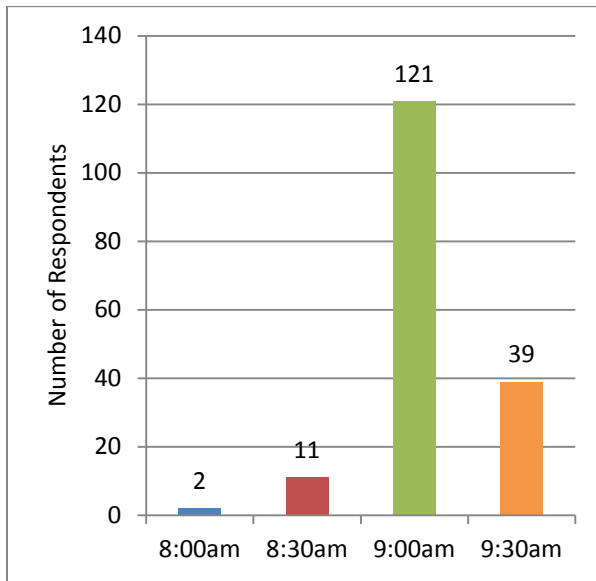
Additional format ideas were shared in the “other comments” free response:

- Another option for format would be starting playoff brackets after 25 games, with the quarter- and semi-finals best of 2 games and finals best of three.
- As an alternative to the playoff systems above, I would suggest that rounds 22-28 be a round robin among the top eight players after round 21, maintaining previous records. Rounds 29-30 would be single elimination winners/winners-losers/losers by position, and round 31 would be KOH to determine final positions among the top eight. As indicated previously, I benefitted from the playoff system, because in the end players that won several more games than me finished lower in the standings. Despite losing all but one game to players in the playoff or in first place, my rating actually dropped during the tournament.
- Consider using the playoff formats only for the top Division and for the Collins division - permitting players in all the lower division to vie for the title throughout the 31 games. The publicity generated by playoffs in the lower divisions probably didn't warrant upsetting the apple cart with the new format.
- Perhaps if the cutoff were after 28 - that would allow for a more even group in the playoffs. This format may make sense for the expert division to generate more excitement about the game, but divisions 2-4 were not being featured on tv/online for a public audience.
- I would really like to have more games and I didn't like the format used this year.
- With a cut to top 8, it would have been nice to play an extra round in the first three days (8 per day, 24 total). Also, many players no longer cared about performance after the first 21 rounds, which made for some less interesting days for those players.
- There should have been a best of four finals instead of best of five because many people were not able to watch nor attend the awards ceremony due to flights that needed to be caught.
- There should be an odd number of games. Spread is often not very helpful or fair to determine a winner of series. It was a shame, there wasn't a CSW-Division 2, I am not sure if all efforts were made to get the sufficient number of players for a second division there.
- Feel the old format was much fairer and that it better sustained interest of competitors, many of whom experienced emotional letdowns after game 21 when non-qualifying would-be finalists were effectively eliminated from competition...
- Hope we go back to the "old" format or at least one pretty similar. All people who paid the full tournament fee should be able to play all 31 games and not have to stop after 28 or so to watch a finals match. Any finals match should be in addition to the 31 games.
- Personally, I greatly enjoyed the bracket format, as I expected I would based on my experience in London. However, many, many people were unhappy before the tournament with the format, and not all of them (not nearly) became convinced of its value. That some people actually were unaware of the format change needs to be viewed as a failing of NASPA rather than the players. For others, the change was a leap of faith they were unwilling to make, and I am sympathetic to them. The manner in which the backlash to the format change was dismissed damaged morale in a way I find regrettable.
- The playoff format made the tournament more exciting - particularly on the last day. My preference would be for it to only apply to the top division in TWL and CSW.
- I see benefits of both bracket and traditional formats. Naming finalists is exciting and somewhat easier to follow, but the traditional format is also exciting because more players have a chance to win late in the tournament. I think a playoff between the final four would strike the right balance. The only options that seem crazy are the ones in which the top 8 begin playing after 28 rounds. These formats are too long and would complicate people's travel plans significantly.

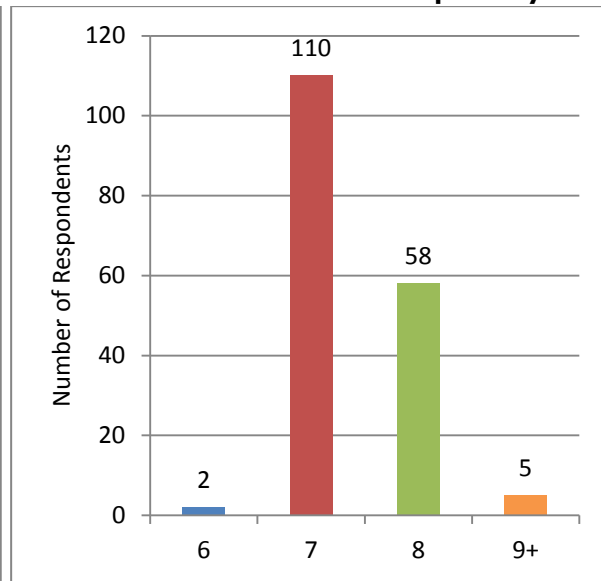
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Other Event Logistics

Preferred Start Time

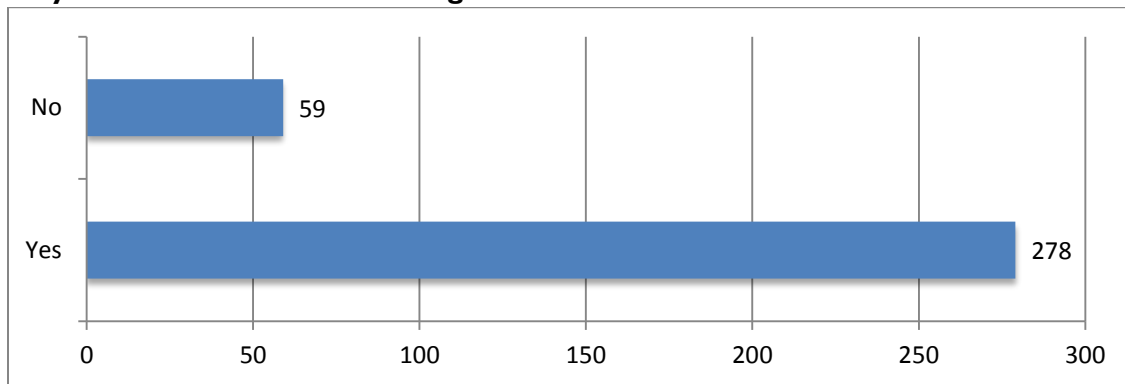


Number of Games per Day



The majority of respondents would maintain our current schedule of 9:00am start times with seven games per day.

Would you be interested in attending a NASC located in Canada?



A large majority showed interest in a Canadian NASC venue based on the survey question, and about a dozen respondents further encouraged NASPA to consider a Canadian location in the free response comments.

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Additional Comments Free Responses

Attendees and non-attendees were provided a free response to the prompt, "Please use this area to offer any additional comments/suggestions you have about the North American SCRABBLE Championship." Respondents used this space to comment on the NASC as well as on NASPA as an organization.

Concerns that were commented on by more than one respondent include: lower attendance this year; need for better communication at the event; clarity in results reporting; desire for more player / Committee input on major changes; cost; location; format; noise level; improvements needed to live coverage; room temperature issues.

Praise was given by more than one respondent for areas including: friendliness, competence, hard work, professionalism of staff; live coverage; efficiency/smoothness of tournament; playing room; generous prizes; warmth and camaraderie of attendees; asking for feedback by providing this survey.

Suggestions included: Canadian location; other location ideas; allowing vendors; ending on a weekend rather than mid-week; format ideas (shared above).

Numerous players used the space to thank the staff of the NASC for all of their hard work to bring the event together.

- Does a Canada location prevent many players from coming? Costs, plane travel seems to be more expensive. Getting a passport for those that don't have one. Trouble getting across the border in timely fashion, I had problems returning by cab from Niagara Falls, Canada when the border was closed for some security alert. Almost missed my plane. I personally would attend.
- Have been to Canada a few times... though for reasons mentioned earlier re: frugal Scrabble players I believe it might be a more niche type Nationals with fewer attendees.
- The customer is always right; fair play is not only the right thing to do, it is the only thing to advocate. Before making changes to a format that has worked well and brought excitement to a rather boring board game solicit opinions from the members before there is only a handful. It is my wish for NASC to prosper and generate excitement, not cause chaos and discontentment.
- Please listen to player feedback before deciding on the player format. It would also be awesome if streaming was available for all rounds.
- The reporting of the results during the playoffs needs to be clearer. It wasn't obvious or easy to figure out who was advancing and where people were in playing the games.
- The broadcast on Twitch is a step in the right direction - I would substantially revamp the presentation to account for the potential for innovative reporting. New website centered around the live stream, live stream running for the course of the entire tournament.
- The live streaming was spectacular for a first try but could be improved - show the clock/time remaining, make the racks more legible. It was great that we were all able to watch the Finals, but we couldn't hear the commentary. Stefan improvised and had Conrad/Joe E come up and do commentary. Either the broadcasters should be moved to the room, the sound needs to be piped in, or the room should have its own "broadcasters."
- I missed not having the vendors there. It's a great opportunity to get bags, tiles, boards, etc. If Hasbro is demanding only officially licensed merchandise at the event, when will Hasbro start to offer it?
- The playing room was freezing but I would rather have it cold than hot. I can always bring a sweater.
- Despite the format change, I had a great time as usual and look forward to next year!
- I love the NASC, and really would like for it to be attended by 500+ each year. I think reworking/eliminating the brackets next year would help; hopefully Fort Wayne also proves to be reasonably priced and easy enough to get to.

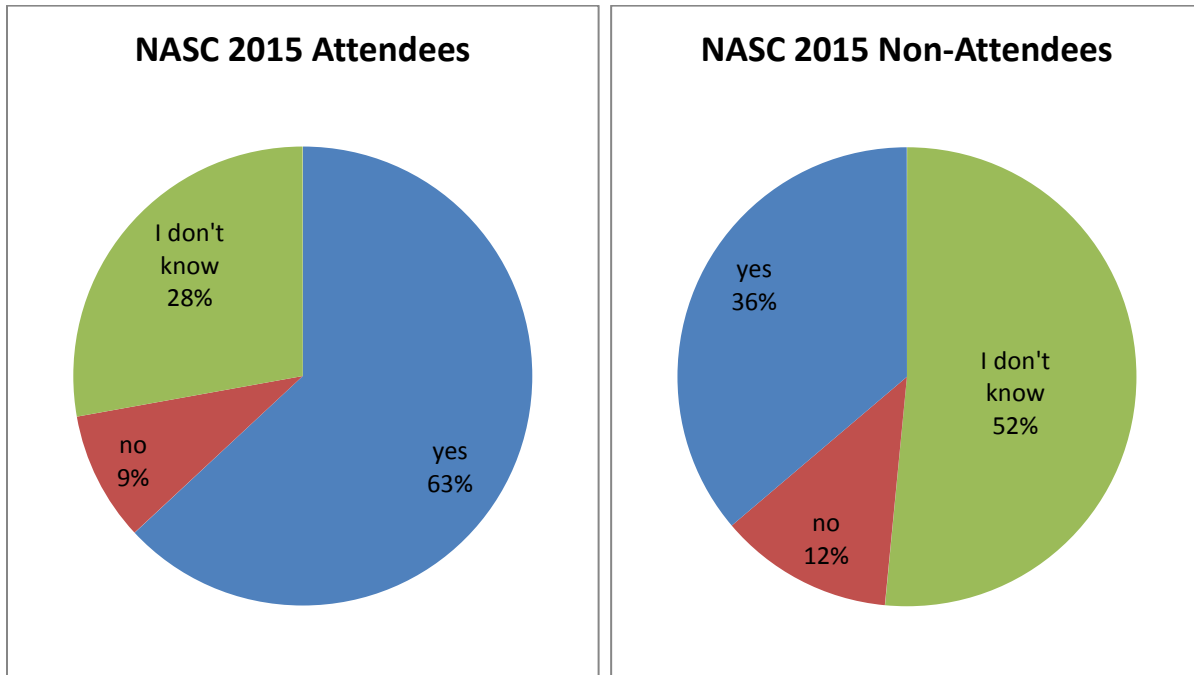
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- I had an amazing time and am looking forward already to the next one in Fort Wayne. Well done everybody.
- Staff generally very helpful throughout, especially during the pretournament communications, and at the service desk at the tournament venue. Thank you for my first NASPA tourney experience.
- This was my 2nd NASC and both of them have been highlights of my Scrabble memories. I met some new players that I would not have had the chance to play by coming to the NASC. I look forward to having the 2016 NASC more centrally located in the midwest which will likely less expense for me without airfare costs. I anticipate Ft. Wayne will make a fine host for this wonderful event.
- Thank you for all everyone's hard work!
- Excellent job with the organization and execution of this tournament, as usual. I would love to see continued growth in the live streaming aspect and online promotion of this event.
- Enjoyed competing with people who are as passionate as I am about playing SCRABBLE! The reunion with old friends & the meeting of new competitors was awesome!
- I want to thank everyone who invests so much time and effort into putting on the championship. Many times over the course of the tourney, I took time to scan the room and marvel at all of the people gathered to enjoy a common hobby. Thanks, NASC crew, for making that possible.
- I had a great time at this year's NASC, as I do every year. I do like the opportunity to visit different cities each year. I am very much looking forward going to Ft Wayne next year even though it is probably not considered a tourist mecca. I have attended just about every Town Hall Meeting since 2004. This year's was the 1st one that I considered worthwhile because the concerns of the members were actually being heard. Part of the reason for that was the venue - a small room which was pretty much full versus a large ballroom which, with even a 100 people, seems like an empty chasm.
- I think the NSC Director does an excellent job, and believe that the American NASPA Co-president needs to make him an offer he can't refuse to ensure that he stays in his post for many years to come.
- Thank you to Chris, Dallas, John, all the directors, data entry folks, annotators, support staff, volunteers, and anyone else who helped with this tournament. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of you. Alan, Sherrie and Patty too! They add so much color to the festivities. Adding Alice C-C to the staff a few years ago was a brainstorm. Her services are a bonus to many of us.
- Scrabble!!! <3

NASC 2015 Member Survey Feedback

NASC 2016

Do you plan to attend the 2016 NASC in Fort Wayne?



Two respondents mentioned that they were impressed that the representatives from Fort Wayne attended the 2015 NASC; one noted, "I was not really thinking about going to Fort Wayne except I was so impressed that they sent people to this year's convention and that they are trying to make it a community wide event – I am going!" The location was chosen in part because of the level of enthusiasm that the Visitors Bureau has expressed in our event. They plan to create a "Summer of SCRABBLE" including art installations and an attempt to break the Guinness Record for most simultaneous games. They will post additional information over the coming months at <http://www.visitfortwayne.com/scrabble/>.