



## MFAH-MFAH ACADEMY FIRST ANNUAL SCRABBLE COMPETITION

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On the 08<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Mfah-Mfah Academy organized her 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scrabble Competition for both English-speaking and French-speaking secondary schools in Cameroon. Five schools participated in the tournament, playing for the honor of being crowned pioneer champions on Mfah-Mfah Academy grounds.

All five schools participated in the English competition and three schools participated in the French competition with a total of 20 competitors. The English players were divided into groups of three while the French players groups of four.



*1 Opening game (a) English competition (b) French competition*

### *French players*

- **Table 1 (English game):** Mfah-Mfah Academy Bandounga vs Coplar Bilingual High School (CBHS) Dschang vs Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Tonga
- **Table 2 (English game):** Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Bandounga vs Coplar Bilingual High School (CBHS) Dschang vs St Paul College Bafang
- **Table 3 (English game):** Mfah-Mfah Academy Bandounga vs Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Tonga vs Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Bandounga
- **Table 4 (French game):** Gouvernement Bilingual High School (GBHS) Bandounga vs Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Tonga vs St Paul College Bafang vs Gouvernement Bilingual High School (GBHS) Bandounga

With every seated in place and all protocol respected, the tournament was launched by the Head of School of Mfah-Mfah Academy, Dr Tanju Fidel, welcoming all the participants from the various schools and reading out the rules and regulations of the game to the referees who then explained them to the players before the games started. The International Collins Official Scrabble Wordlist 2015 was used to verify words.

### **First slot**



### *2 Tournament in progress*

The games started at 12:00 noon. Each game session was 1 hour (60 minutes) long with each player having 15 minutes total for play with 30 seconds for each play. On a table, the players were asked to pick a tile from the pack and the player whose tile letter was closest to 'A' started the game on that table. Each player selected seven tiles from the pack of tiles and the game started with the timer running in the hands of the referees. The first player started spelling his/her word by placing a tile on the star in the centre of the Scrabble board. After 30 seconds, the first player turn was over and his/her points counted and recorded. The next player's timer started following the same pattern as the first player. After an hour had elapsed the games were called off by the Head of school of Mfah- Mfah Academy who served as the overall referee (director).



## Winners of the first slot

- In **Table 1** the winner was Coplar Bilingual High School Dschang with a total score of 184
- In **Table 2**, the winner was Government Bilingual High School Bandounga with a total score of 153
- In **Table 3**, the winner was Mfah-Mfah Academy Bandounga with a total score of 178
- In **Table 4**, the winner was St Paul college Bafang and second place was Government Bilingual High School Bandounga

After the first slot, there were three players heading to the final slot for the English game and two players for the French game. However, the best loser from the three English game tables was selected to join the three players for the English final game to make 4 players and Mfah-Mfah Academy with 168 was selected.



*Finalists*

## The Final slot (Championship)

The final games were set, two tables (English and French), rules were read again. The atmosphere was tense as to which schools will be going home with the prestigious prizes leaving a record for the Mfah-Mfah Academy 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scrabble competition. Refereeing the English game was MmeNteh Gwendolyn of Government Bilingual High School Tonga and at the French game was Mr Tabi

Fortunate of Mfah-Mfah Academy. Cameras and spectators are reading to capture the moments with their different lenses.

Each player selected 7 tiles from the pack of tiles and mounted them on their racks. Then the game kicked off with each player having 30 seconds to form a word or words for each round. After an hour the game ended and results were read as follows:

- Champion of the English game was Coplar Bilingual High school with a score of 165 points.
- Champion of the French game was St Paul College Bafang with a score of 194 points



*Champions: Ngoueko Brayana of St Paul College Bafang (left) and Morfor Didacus (Coplar Bilingual High School Dschang (right))*

The highest score point in a session of 30 seconds was 66 points by Morfor Didacus during the final round.



*Group photo after tournament*

**We hope to see the young players in future competition again!**