

Referendum Language:

Question 1: Shall WGPO establish, maintain, and make available its own WGPO official word list to be used for North American club and tournament play.

☐ **Yes, Establish a Independent WGPO Official Word List**

☐ **No, Do Not Establish an Independent WGPO Official Word List**

Question 2: If the membership votes to establish a WGPO official word list, the following referendum will guide future WGPO committees tasked with the creation and update of this word list regarding the inclusion of slurs. Choose one of the following:

☐ **WGPO's official word list should contain all appropriately identified words including slurs and other offensive words.**

☐ **WGPO's official word list should contain all appropriately identified words except a short list of the most offensive slurs (approximately 10 or fewer).**

FAQ about proposed WGPO referendum

1) Why are we voting on these referendum questions?

Recently, Hasbro mandated approximately 250 slurs be removed from the primary North American tournament word list. Our membership voiced significant opposition to this change. WGPO bylaws require a membership vote to deviate from using this updated primary North American tournament word list. More importantly, WGPO takes its membership input seriously. If approved, this proposed Bylaw Revision will authorize WGPO to create its own unique lexicon that includes most or all of these 250 slurs.

2) What will happen if the referendum on whether to establish a WGPO Official Word List passes?

WGPO will form a lexicon committee to create a new WGPO tournament word list similar to the current North American tournament word list. Once approved, this new list will be used at future WGPO TWL events. This list will include either most or all slurs depending on the outcome of the second referendum question.

3) What if the referendum on whether to establish a WGPO Official Word List fails to pass?

WGPO will continue to use the common primary tournament word list used in North America which will not include a significant list of slurs. The outcome of the second referendum question on slurs will not be implemented.

4) Why is my preference for a word list not a choice in the referendum?

Choices were narrowed down to those likely to get majority support in a referendum, based on results of the membership survey conducted in early August. We did not include other options, such as using the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (OSPD), because they were only supported by a few respondents.

5) Why can't we just continue to use the current tournament word list?

Any word list used by WGPO must be available to the membership for studying and word judging during game play. Once the current word list is updated by the North American Scrabble Players Association (NASPA), availability of the list isn't guaranteed. The legal uncertainty related to intellectual property prevents us from distributing this list. Use of our own independent word list would reduce legal liability for WGPO.

6) How would a WGPO word list differ from a NASPA word list?

The WGPO list would include most or all slurs found in our source dictionaries. Other small differences, such as the potential removal of errors or words not found in any source dictionary. These other differences are expected to be smaller in scope than the included list of slurs.

7) How will this new list be created?

A lexicon committee would be formed to create this list and will follow the binding results of the referendum. If the membership votes to include all but the most objectionable slurs, this committee will identify a small list of words to remove. This committee would also approve additional changes like removing spelling errors or words not found in any source dictionary and be responsible for updating this list in the future.

8) How can I get a copy of this new WGPO list?

Once created, WGPO will provide access to this new list to our membership as an electronic file. This file can be added to study and lookup apps like Zyzzyva and ULU. There is not a current plan for a printed version, but it will be considered in the future if sufficient demand warrants.

9) Will this new WGPO list be available on my favorite apps/programs?

While WGPO would work with developers of online platforms (like ISC, Scrabble Go, Woogles, etc.) to encourage the inclusion of our word list, we cannot guarantee they will use it. Currently, study and look-up programs like Collins Zyzzyva and ULU for iPhones/iPads are free and already allow for users to add their own word list. We are still investigating potential solutions for those with Android phones/tablets.

10) How will this affect the international Collins word list (CSW)?

The referendum does not apply to CSW, and there are no plans to create an alternative to this international wordlist.

11) When will a WGPO Official Word List be available?

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we do not predict that WGPO will be sponsoring in-person events in the immediate future. We hope to have a new word list available in spring 2021 or earlier.

12) Who is eligible to vote?

All WGPO Members not currently under suspension are eligible to vote. New memberships will not be processed during the referendum period. Those wishing to join WGPO should sign up at <http://wordgameplayers.org/join/> by November 25th to guarantee eligibility to vote.

13) How do I vote?

If you registered or voted in either of the previous three year's elections you have already been emailed a ballot. If you did not receive a ballot and would like to vote, please email your request to elections@wordgameplayers.org and you will receive your ballot by email. Electronic voting ends on December 14th (11:59pm Pacific time). You may also print out and return a paper ballot, but it must be received by December 14. Contact elections@wordgameplayers.org for more details.