

When we have the next Asheville Scrabble tournament, we would want it to be the most successful, well-attended Asheville tournament ever.

With travel by air being expensive and unreliable, and travel by car (with gas prices the way they are) more than a few players would elect to “pass” on a November opportunity. With inflation, one would also expect that hotel prices, Airbnb, and restaurant prices will likely skyrocket, particularly that time of year.

After scheduling each of our last two tournaments, and then seeing the additional variants of Covid result in more positives, more disease, more hospitalizations, etc. we had to cancel them both. Of course, immunization would help but there is talk of the expectation of a rise in all those parameters in the fall of this year.

There is also talk of the need for a different set of vaccines that would provide additional protection against some of these variants, but no word on when those vaccines might be available.

So, why not plan for a tournament, then cancel if we need to? Because planning a large tournament is really a big deal and with cancellation, you can't imagine the number of emails, phone calls, refunds, explaining to food trucks who reserved a day for us, etc.

There are too many unknowns to suggest that planning a tournament for the fall of 2022, knowing that we had to cancel the last two in a row, would be a smart thing to do. As fun and stimulating as tournaments are, they are not essential.

No November tournament for 2022 in Asheville.

Maybe a “May Madness” tournament in 2023!