New Method to pair first round at Seattle Scrabble club (trial)

Why the change? Players arriving before 6pm have to sit out when we are uneven - and we a trying to avoid this happening to the same player(s) repeatedly. This will also randomize the first pairings instead of the same folks playing each other every week. We are going to give this a try and see how it goes.

How does it work? Each player will draw a tile out of a special bag (with just tiles A - Z) and will be paired using that instead of choosing their own opponent for the first round.

This only applies to the pairing the first round; subsequent rounds will be paired as usual (using standings for the evening, while avoiding repeats, etc.)

Exception for new players: the director will choose opponents for new players.

Steps:

- Players set up tables and boards as usual (but DO NOT select an opponent and do not start a game).

- Each player fills out a card with their name and places it in the red basket

- At 5:55pm, the director will start the drawing process (this should give us enough time to get everything set up and most players will have arrived)

- Each player will draw a tile out of the special bag (orange, with just one each of A, B, ... Z).

- After all players have drawn a tile, players will be paired in alphabetical order by drawn tile with the first two closest to A, then the next pair, and so on.

- If we are uneven, the player with the letter closest to Z will sit out (and that sit out will be recorded as a regular sit out in the folder)*.

- Players find their opponents and games start by 6:00pm

- Player arriving after games have commenced will still have to sit out (unless we were uneven, of course)

*Director will consult the Players Sitting out list to make sure the same person doesn't sit out too soon. Hopefully, this will not get too complicated.