

Schulte Table Daily Challenge - Reproducible Layout Guide

A user-facing technical guide to deterministic daily layouts, browser-local records, Official eligibility, Practice replays, and cross-device limits.

How the Daily Challenge Works

Input	Role in the current implementation
Local date	The device-local YYYY-MM-DD selects the challenge day.
Grid size	The selected side length defines the number of cells and targets.
Direction	Ascending or descending is part of the challenge configuration.
Version	Version v1 separates this generation recipe from a future implementation.
Deterministic shuffle	A hashed seed drives a repeatable Fisher-Yates layout.
Local attempt state	An eligible start can become Official; later or unfinished-start replays are Practice.
Local streak	Completed Official dates retained in this browser form the streak.

The current implementation was revalidated against the production source before publication. Revalidate this guide whenever the challenge seed inputs, version, attempt-state rules, or storage model changes.

1. Why the daily layout can repeat

A deterministic challenge uses the same relevant inputs to recreate the same layout instead of choosing an unrelated fresh shuffle every time. The current implementation combines the device-local date, selected grid size, ascending or descending direction, and challenge version v1.

Those values are hashed to a numeric seed. A deterministic pseudo-random generator supplies the choices used by a Fisher-Yates shuffle of the values 1 through the number of cells. Matching inputs therefore recreate matching target positions under the same implementation version.

Input group	Purpose
Local date	Selects the current local challenge day.
Grid size	Defines how many cells and targets the challenge contains.
Direction	Defines the ascending or descending ordering rule.
Challenge version	Separates version v1 from a future generation recipe.
Deterministic seed / shuffle	Turns the challenge inputs into a reproducible layout.

Deterministic does not mean cryptographically secure, globally verified, or impossible to reset. It means matching relevant inputs can reproduce the same layout under the current version.

2. Official attempt versus Practice replay

For one local date, grid size, and direction, the page checks whether the Official slot is still eligible when a round starts. An eligible start writes an active marker in local storage. If that round completes normally, the completed record is labeled Official and can contribute its date to the local streak.

If an Official result already exists, the same configuration opens as Practice. If the page later detects an active eligible marker left by a refresh, tab close, crash, or other interruption, it marks that configuration unfinished locally; later starts are also Practice. An unfinished round is not saved as a completed Official result and does not add a streak date.

Label	Meaning in the current workflow	What it does not prove
Official	A locally eligible start that completed for one date + grid size + direction.	Identity, global ranking, clock integrity, or tamper-proof verification.
Practice	A later replay after an Official completion, or a replay after an unfinished eligible start was detected.	A separate Official result or a standardized comparison with another user or device.

Official and Practice are local interface states. The browser does not contact an account service, and clearing the relevant site data removes the records and markers the page relies on.

3. Local date and timezone

A local-date challenge changes when the user's device enters a new local calendar day. It does not use one worldwide UTC boundary. Two people in different time zones may therefore be on different challenge dates at the same instant.

For troubleshooting, record the local date, time zone, challenge settings, browser, and device. A changed device clock or time-zone setting can change the date input; the tool does not consult a trusted external time service.

A different daily grid does not automatically mean the generator is broken. First compare the local date, grid size, direction, and version.

4. Browser-only streaks and records

Current and longest streaks use the distinct dates in completed Official daily records stored in this browser. Consecutive calendar dates form a run. Multiple Official configurations on one date still contribute one participation date, while Practice tracker records do not create extra streak dates.

There is no account or cloud synchronization. Clearing site storage, using private browsing, switching browsers, or changing devices can make the local history unavailable. Daily Challenge data and shared Progress Tracker records also use separate controls; deleting one data set does not necessarily remove the other.

A streak describes locally retained participation dates. It is not an ability, attention, intelligence, health, or educational score.

5. Reproducibility checklist

- Confirm the same device-local challenge date.
- Confirm the same grid size.
- Confirm the same ascending or descending direction.
- Confirm challenge version v1, or the same future version if the implementation changes.
- Separate layout identity from result comparability: device, input method, screen size, interruptions, and error handling can still affect time.
- Treat a Challenge ID as a configuration label, not proof of identity or completion.

6. Why there is no universal daily leaderboard

A browser-local challenge does not verify identity, normalize device or input conditions, guarantee that site storage has not been cleared, or maintain a server-held Official lock. A phone and laptop can keep separate local records, and the device clock is not independently trusted.

Keeping the feature focused on personal participation avoids presenting a local browser record as a globally verified competition result. The layout can be reproducible while the completion conditions remain unverified and incomparable.

Related site resources: [Daily Challenge](#), [Progress Tracker](#), [Grid Generator](#), the [random-versus-reproducible workflow article](#), and the [multilingual HTML landing page](#) for this guide.