

2025 Crystal Ball Cup

Format

You will be presented with a series of hypothetical events. For each event, you will have one minute to submit a probability $p \in [0, 1]$ that the event occurs before the end of 2025.

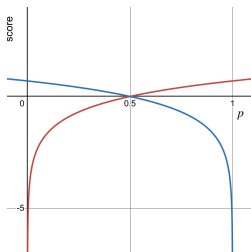
No discussion is allowed except for clarifying questions.

You may not consult external resources. You may not collude with each other to affect the outcome of any event before 2026-01-01.

Scoring

On 2026-01-01, I will compute your score to be the mean of your scores across all events. Your score on one event with submitted probability p is defined as:

$$\text{score}(p) = \begin{cases} \ln p - \ln 0.5 & \text{if the event occurred} \\ \ln(1 - p) - \ln 0.5 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



Retrospective

On some day early next year we will reconvene to evaluate our 2025 predictions and make predictions for 2026.

Events

1. New Super Smash Bros. game announced

Nintendo announces a new Super Smash Bros. game on or before 2025-12-31.

2. Zohran Mamdani wins the NYC mayoral election

Zohran Mamdani is elected Mayor of New York City in the 2025 election, as confirmed by certified election results or a consensus of credible reporting.

3. The top grossing domestic film of Q4 2025 is based on an original screenplay

The top grossing domestic film of Q4 2025 (October through December), according to Box Office Mojo, is based on an original screenplay—meaning not adapted from existing material—as determined by Oscar eligibility or expert consensus (e.g. Writer's Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences).

4. A young man wins the 2025 US Open Men's Singles tournament

The winner of the 2025 US Open Men's Singles Final is under 25 years old on the day of the final match, as determined by official ATP birthdate records.

5. Sam Bankman-Fried is pardoned

Sam Bankman-Fried receives a presidential pardon on some date on or before 2025-12-31.

6. More than five participants play chess on a random November date

On a randomly selected date in November 2025, more than five participants confirm via group poll that they played at least one complete game of chess on that date.

7. There is an unplanned market closure

A National Market System stock exchange (e.g. NYSE or Nasdaq) is closed for an unscheduled full-day trading halt on or before 2025-12-31, due to an extraordinary event (e.g., natural disaster or death of a political figure).

8. Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift are engaged

Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift are reported to be engaged on or before 2025-12-31, via a consensus of credible media reporting or primary sources.

9. Life is discovered beyond Earth

A credible space agency (e.g. NASA, ESA) confirms the discovery of life beyond Earth on or before 2025-12-31, as reported by a consensus of scientific or governmental sources.

10. The Epstein files are released

The U.S. Department of Justice releases a collection of sealed or previously unreleased documents related to Jeffrey Epstein on or before 2025-12-31, with release confirmed by official sources or major media coverage.

11. The Neom construction project is canceled

The Saudi government announces the cancellation of the Neom construction project on or before 2025-12-31, confirmed via official statements or major news outlets.

12. California experiences a large earthquake

An earthquake with magnitude 7.0 or greater and an epicenter within California occurs on or before 2025-12-31, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

13. Our most listened-to artist is a solo female artist

Across all participants' 2025 Spotify Wrapped Top Artists lists, the artist with the highest total number of appearances is a solo female artist.

14. New York City has a white Christmas

At least one inch of snow is on the ground in Central Park on December 25, as measured by the National Weather Service.

15. Jerome Powell remains Chair of the Federal Reserve

Jerome Powell is Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on 2025-12-31.

16. Steve Harrington dies in the final season of Stranger Things

The character Steve Harrington dies in the fifth season of Stranger Things.

17. A record is broken at the 2025 World Athletics Championships

At least one world record is broken at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, confirmed by World Athletics.

18. More than three participants change employment status

More than three participants hold different employment statuses on December 31 compared to September 1.