

WASHINGTON STATE KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAM CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

Qualifying for the State Tournament

In order for any team to compete at the State Meet, that team will need to qualify through successful participation at the ESD/Regional level. Each Region will conduct its own qualifying or Regional Meet to determine which teams go to State.

The ESD/Region will determine how to run their own Regional Meet, and that these regional meets may not all be conducted in the same manner. Schools and teams should check with their Regional Coordinators for any questions regarding their local ESD Regional Meet.

Each ESD/Region will be allotted a specific number of spots for teams at the State Meet at each classification. The State Executive Committee for WA State Knowledge Bowl will determine the allotments to the State Meet based upon information and discussion shared at the annual fall meeting. This meeting will be scheduled and conducted by the State Coordinator, and will also be used to discuss rules and details for the State Meet.

Currently, the State Meets for 1A, 2B, and 1B schools will be at Spokane Falls Community College in Spokane, while the state meets for 4A, 3A, and 2A schools will be at Marysville-Pilchuck HS in Marysville.

The State Meets are usually held on the same day each year – the 4th Saturday of March. However this year in 2012, the State Meets will be held on the 3rd Saturday of March, March 17th.

Teams Participate at State at What Level?

General Rule of Thumb: At the state meet, teams will compete against other teams of similar size or classification. For the most part, we will use the [WIAA athletic](#) classifications to determine at what level a team from a given school will compete during the Knowledge Bowl State Tournament. In other words, if a school is competing at the 3A level for athletics, then it will be generally expected that the Knowledge Bowl team(s) from that school will compete at the 3A level at state.

Exceptions – It is possible that under certain circumstances, a team from a given school will be allowed to compete at the Knowledge Bowl State Tournament at a different classification or level

than that of the school's athletic teams. This is not for the team or school to decide, but teams may request such an exception. Please keep in mind that such a request is to be initiated by the school involved through their regional coordinator by the deadline of October 1st of the current year. Any exception for a team would be considered and might be granted by the Regional Coordinator, although in some cases the State Executive Committee may be involved in the final decision.

Here are some of the possible situations, and what may be decided in each case:

1. Situation: Team A is from a school whose athletic teams have decided to compete up a level – the school has numbers to be 1A, but decided to compete at 2A due to geography, league alignments, and bus travel. Since these issues do not apply to the school for Knowledge Bowl, Team A requests that they be allowed to compete at their actual school size classification (1A) in order to qualify for State.

Decision: This would likely be allowed.

1. Situation: Team B is from a small school (1B) whose athletic teams combine in some or all sports with another nearby small school for competition. As a result, their athletic teams are considered by WIAA as 2B for competition. (Since these athletic teams draw from a larger pool of students, WIAA will use the combined population numbers of both schools to determine their classification for athletics.) However, since this school will not be combining with another school for Knowledge Bowl, Team B requests permission to compete at the 1B level, according to their actual school size.

Decision: This would likely be allowed.

1. Situation: School C has a Knowledge Bowl program, but a nearby school does not. Students from the nearby school become aware of the program at School C, and wish to participate with them. (For an extreme example, let's say that School C is a 1B school, and the nearby school is 4A.) The coach at School C asks for permission to include students from the nearby school on their team, and also asks for clarification about the level at which their combination Team C would need to compete.

Decision: School C would likely be allowed to use participants from the nearby school *with the understanding that the level at which Team C would compete for State Knowledge Bowl would be determined by the combined populations of the two schools*. In other words, in this case Team C would compete at the 4A level, since the nearby school is already 4A by themselves.

1. Situation: Team D is from a school whose athletics are not competing up a level, but for some reason (tougher challenges, for example), Team D requests permission to do so. It is understood that the school is to take responsibility to initiate this request. Further, the deadline to make such a request will be October 1st of that school year.

Decision: Depending upon the reason for the request, this may be allowed.

Multiple Teams from One School Competing at State?

The question has come up about whether a single school may field more than one team, let's say Team #1 and Team #2, to compete at their regional meet with the chance to qualify either or both teams for State. The answer to this will depend upon the ESD/Region. Some regions allow multiple teams from schools to compete, all with equal opportunity to qualify for State, while other regions do not. The State Executive Committee at this time has decided that this should continue to be a regional decision. Schools should check with their regional coordinators regarding questions about this.

Private Schools Issue

WIAA tends to treat private schools in the same manner as public, using their school population to determine their athletic classification level. Some people have argued that in Knowledge Bowl, some private schools are academic magnets, as it were, which might give them an unfair advantage in competing against other schools the same size, and that perhaps they should be asked to compete up a level, for example. This may be especially the case for smaller schools, since the size of the pool from which participants are drawn is small. However, it can also be argued that some public schools are academic magnets as well, while it is also true that not all private schools are academic magnet schools. With this in mind, for Knowledge Bowl we will continue to treat private and public schools in the same manner for determining their school size classification.

Home-Schooled Students

Home-schooled individuals of high school age will be allowed to participate on the local high school Knowledge Bowl team. Keep in mind that this would need to be the high school that the student would be attending if he/she were not being home-schooled.