

WASHINGTON STATE KNOWLEDGE BOWL TOURNAMENT RULES AND GUIDELINES

TEAMS – Each team will consist of not more than six members.

CHEATING – Cheating may include but is not limited to verbal and visual cues from the audience, as well as the use of electronic devices*. During competition these acts will not be tolerated. Any team member found cheating during either the written or an oral round will be removed and may not be replaced for the remainder of that round. In addition, the team will receive a penalty of a 10-point deduction for that round.

* Electronic Devices – Please keep in mind that it is not appropriate at any time while competing for any team member to use any electronic device (i.e. calculator or cell phone or IPOD, etc) which may be used to access information or to communicate with others. These items are to be turned off and put away before the round begins.

WRITTEN ROUND – The Written Round will consist of a printed copy of 50 multiple-choice questions, which will be the same for each team. The round has a time limit of 35 minutes.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES Team Groupings for the Preliminary Rounds

1. If there are 18 teams competing at a given level (for example 4A), then these teams will be divided into 2 divisions of 9 each. If 12 teams are competing, they will be organized into 1 division of 12 teams. Other adjustments are to be made to accommodate the number of teams.
2. In the Preliminary Rounds, teams will compete during one Written Round and four Oral Rounds. Each team's scores will be compared with the scores of the other teams within a division.
3. During the Prelim Oral Rounds, each team should meet the other teams within their Division no more than once (pre-determined schedule).

Advancing to the Semifinal and Championship Rounds

4. The top 9 teams at each level (4A, 3A, etc.) will advance to the Semi-Final Oral Round, according to a pre-determined schedule. Total scores from the Written Round plus the four Preliminary Oral Rounds will be used to determine which teams advance.
5. The 9 teams in the Semi-Final Oral Rounds will be divided into 3 groups of 3 for one oral round of 50 questions. Based on their previous totals, teams will be grouped according to a pre-determined schedule.

6. The 1st place finisher of each Semifinal Round will advance to the Championship Round to compete for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places overall. The 2nd place finishers will advance to compete for 4th, 5th, and 6th, and the 3rd place finishers will advance to compete for 7th, 8th, and 9th.
7. The final place each team earns will be based on the results of the Championship Rounds.

Resolving Ties

8. In qualifying for the Semi-Final Rounds and determining the 3 groups of 3, ties will first be resolved by the Written Round scores. If a tie still exists, it will be resolved as follows: Ties between two teams will result in a “mini” oral round of 10 questions (15 Q’s for three teams). If a tie still exists after this session, then questions will be read in groups of 5 until the tie is broken.
9. In qualifying for the Championship Rounds, only the scores from the Semifinal Rounds will be used. Ties within a competing group of 3 will be resolved as follows: Ties between two teams will result in a “mini” oral round of 10 questions (15 Q’s for three teams). If a tie still exists after this session, then questions will be read in groups of 5 until the tie is broken.
10. Scores from the only Championship Rounds will be used to determine 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, 8th, 9th places for the Tournament at that level. If a tie exists at the conclusion of a Championship Round, it will be resolved in the same manner as described in the previous rule (#9).

WRITTEN ROUND RULES

1. All members of the team may participate and work cooperatively on the Written Round to decide upon the best answer for each question. Discussion is allowed. Please keep in mind that an effort should be made to keep discussions down to a level that will not disturb the other teams.
2. Answers are to be marked on the Official Answer Sheet, which will be scored after the round. Only the answers placed on the Official Answer Sheet will be considered.
3. One point will be awarded for each correct answer. There is no penalty for an incorrect response.
4. Substitutions are not allowed during the Written Round. Any team member who leaves their team during the Written Round for any reason may not rejoin the team until the round is over.

ORAL ROUND RULES

The first four Oral Rounds (Preliminary Oral Rounds) will consist of 50 short answer questions, which are read aloud by the Reader/Judge. The Semi-Final and Championship Oral Rounds will also consist of 50 questions each. All 50 questions in an oral round will be read.

Teams

1. Three teams compete against each other during an oral round.
2. Each team may have up to four members “in” at one time, who must be seated facing the Reader/Judge.
3. Teams will be allowed to make substitutions once during an oral round – at the halfway point (immediately following question 25 during a 50-question round). Any team member except for the team captain may be replaced by either of the two available substitutes.
4. One team member will serve as team captain, and must do so for the entire round. The team’s name card must be placed directly in front of the captain during the oral rounds to assist the reader/judge in identifying the captain of each team.

Buzzing In

5. In order for a team to have the opportunity to answer a question, a team member must “buzz in” by touching the bar.
6. The timing device display must be visible to the team members. Each team will be seated directly in front of their team “bar.”
7. The Reader/Judge will begin each question by announcing the question #. Once the question # has been given, any team that buzzes in must respond.
8. A team may interrupt by buzzing in at any point while the question is being read (up to 5 seconds after the last team to buzz in). The reader stops immediately, and the Timer calls out the team (Team A, B, or C).
9. A team that buzzes in has 15 seconds to begin its answer. Time will start when the Timer has recognized a team that has buzzed in.
10. The team that has buzzed in may answer only after being recognized by the timer. A team which answers before being recognized by the Timer will be disqualified on that question, and on the alternate question should it be required to replace the original question.
11. If no team has buzzed in while the question is being read, teams will have five seconds following the completion of the question to buzz in, or else the Reader/Judge will give the answer and go on to the next question.

12. If the first team to buzz in answers the question incorrectly, the next team to buzz in would have the opportunity to answer the question. If that team answers incorrectly, the third team that has buzzed in would have the opportunity to answer the question.
13. Each team is given 15 seconds to begin their response. A continuous response may be completed after expiration of time.
14. If at least one team has buzzed in and the entire question has been read, a team that has not yet buzzed in must do so within 5 seconds after the Reader/Judge has announced the previous team's response to be incorrect.
15. A question may be re-read only if the team responding to a partially read question has answered it incorrectly and the other team(s) has not buzzed in. Only the team(s) not buzzed in may request the re-reading of the question.
16. In a case where no correct answer is given, the Reader/Judge will finish the question if needed, read the correct answer and go on to the next question.

Discussion and Answering

17. A team may quietly discuss the question and/or answer. A team's discussion time ends when they provide an answer, correct or incorrect.
18. Talking between questions is to be kept to a minimum. Action on that point is at the judge's discretion.
19. All answers must be clear and concise. It is recommended that they begin with "Our answer is," or "The answer is," or "Our team answer is."
20. One team member — the Captain or his/her designee — may give only one answer. (The captain may appoint another member to give the answer.)
21. If the answer to a question is a name, the last name is acceptable unless the reader/judge pre-announces that a full name is required for that question.
22. Mathematics questions will be announced prior to the reading of the question (i.e., "The next question is a math question.>").
23. For math questions that deal with measurements, the unit in the answer is required, unless the unit is given in the question. For example, if the question said "How many square feet . ." then square feet in the answer would be optional. If the question said, "Find the area . ." — without reference to a unit — then "square feet" if appropriate would be required.
24. On some questions, parts of the answer will be optional if that part was included in the question. For example, if the question asked "What river in North America . ." and "Columbia River" was the correct answer, then "Columbia" alone would be accepted since "river" was part of the question and therefore optional in the answer. If, however, the question asked "Which body of water in North America . ." then "Columbia River" would be required as the correct answer.

25. One point is awarded to the team giving the correct response to each question. There is no penalty for an incorrect response.

Other Oral Round Rules

26. Pencil and paper may be used for any question, and the writings may be shared between members.

27. Only the Team Captain (or his/her designated team member) may address a Reader/Judge for clarification or a challenge during the Oral Round. Other team members, coaches, or audience members will not be recognized.

28. The decision of the Reader/Judge during the Oral Round is final.

29. At the end of the round, the Team Captain may choose to issue a Formal Challenge, which will be reviewed by the Challenge Resolution Team immediately after that round. Please note that a team may only issue a Formal Challenge to questions they challenged during the round.

30. Each Team Captain must initial the score sheet at the end of an oral round.