

Subject-area Judge Responsibilities

Pre-Tournament

1. Attend pre-tournament meeting, if possible.
2. Bring reference books and a calculator, if appropriate.
3. Familiarize yourself with the tournament rules and procedures before tournament.
4. Preview subject-area questions upon reporting to the competition room and alert the coordinating judge or reader of any potential problems.

During a Competition

1. Monitor audience and players for signals, interference, poor sportsmanship, etc. Report any questionable activity to the coordinating judge.
2. Follow along with the question reader and alert the reader immediately to corrections in pronunciation, etc.
3. Listen to ensure that the correct team responds and that the reader correctly identifies the responding team.
4. Listen carefully to the response. Jot down the response in case a challenge is issued.
5. Be prepared to confirm or reject a variant response.
6. Keep score on the question booklet with the number of the team and a “+” or “-” to indicate points earned or lost.

Competition Format

1. Competitive-response questions are answered by competing teams using the button. When a team answers a competitive-response question correctly, it receives the number of points the question is worth. If the answer is incorrect, the points are subtracted from the score, and the round continues to the next question. If a competitive-response question is not answered within sixty seconds, the answer is given and the round continues.
 - a) On a **free-response question** the reader may ask for clarification of the answer or for additional information. Generally in questions requiring computation, the unit is specified and is, therefore, not required as part of the answer. If the unit is not specified in the question, it must be given as part of the response. In some instances if the unit is omitted from the response, the reader will ask the respondent for additional information.

If more information is given in the answer than is needed, that information must be correct. However, “shotgunning” is not permitted and will be considered stalling.

- b) On a matching question, the acceptable response is any correct combination of letter/number matching column to column or the printed answer. No clarification from the respondent is requested or permitted.
 - c) On a multiple choice question, the best response is the correct number or the printed answer. No clarification from the respondent is requested or permitted. The reader defers to the judges for a decision as to whether to accept the given response.
2. Team questions are answered by teams within a specific time limit without the use of the button. Time limits are determined by the complexity of the question. Team questions are responded to on paper. When time runs out, the team's designated answer sheet is collected and graded by the subject area judges. Teams must stop writing when time is called. Points are not subtracted for incorrect responses.
 3. Subject-area judges score the handouts. When the scoring of the team questions is complete, the subject-area judges give the results to the coordinating judge who gives them to the reader to announce.

Challenges

1. Any challenge must be made by any of the four playing team members before the first word of the next question is read. Neither coaches nor alternates nor observers may challenge. If the last competitive-response question in a round is challenged, the challenge must be made before the title of the team question is announced. A challenge to a team question must be made before the announcement of the two-minute break.
2. The only participants in a challenge are the playing team members, the subject-area judge(s) involved, and the coordinating judge.
3. Do not make any spontaneous comments. Avoid any discussion/confrontation with the team members. If other teams comment, remind them to be quiet.
4. For any challenge:
 - a) Listen carefully to the challenge and take notes on the specific wording of the challenge.
 - b) Confer with other judge(s) in the subject area.
 - c) Give decision to coordinating judge for announcement.
5. You may leave the room to go the resource books available or to consult with a judge in another room. A challenge may be tabled until a decision is made, and the competition will proceed with the next question.
6. The coordinating judge and/or tournament director resolve any disagreements as to the decision on the challenge.
7. No further discussion will be permitted.
8. There can be more than one challenge to a question.
9. Once a decision is made, it is final and may not be reversed under any circumstances.