

# International Academic Competitions

## **2020 Online National Championships** **Official Rules Summary for all Middle School and** **Elementary Division Playoff Bee Matches**

Thank you for participating in the 2020 National Championships! This document is intended as an outline of the rules of the competition for all Bee Playoff matches (i.e. individual buzzer-based events). If you have specific questions regarding more detailed aspects of the rules, please ask a tournament official.

### Playoff Structure and Differences from Preliminaries

The number of students who qualify for playoffs will be the top 25-40 % of the total students in each division. During the Playoffs, students will be seeded by their preliminary scores and will once again play against up to 9 other students in an individual, buzzer-based competition. However, during playoffs, there are 30 questions for all students, and each student will be trying to answer 8 questions before the other students in the room, instead of 6. Each correct answer will earn students one point. In Playoff matches, qualification depends on the best students' scores **in that room, not overall**. So for example, an event with 4 semifinal rooms will qualify the top 2 students from each room for the final, instead of taking the top 8 overall scores. In playoffs, bonus points are not awarded. If there are ties for qualifying to the next round, or ties for medals in finals, those with 8 points are ranked based on when they received their 8<sup>th</sup> point. All other ties that fit that category are broken at the buzzer.

To prevent matches from going on too long, three incorrect answers will end the opportunity to answer a particular tossup question for all students. **If the reader is still reading the question, and students give the third incorrect answer, they will be deducted one point.** If the reader has finished reading the question, there is no penalty for a student who is the third to answer incorrectly; the question is then still dead once three incorrect answers have been given. There is no penalty ever in preliminary rounds for giving either the first or the second incorrect answer no matter at what point in the question the student rings in at.

The reader will wait five seconds after they have finished reading the question before calling it dead. If

someone rings in during this time, and is incorrect, then the five second count begins again. The reader will also allow students five seconds after they have buzzed in to give their answer.

### Protests

If students wish to protest, they must bring it to the reader's attention immediately (i.e. before the next question begins), then fill out a protest form at the end of the round. Only students may protest – coaches and parents may not. Students may also only protest answers they themselves gave that were ruled incorrect – not answers that other students gave that were ruled correct. Timing decisions are not protestable.

If the reader botches a question, then there are makeup questions included with each round that can be used. If students speak out of turn, they do not lose a point, but they are disqualified for the question. The question is still alive for everyone else as long as the moderator did not reveal the answer. If the moderator did reveal the answer, the student who spoke out of turn sits out the makeup question, as do any students who had already rung in incorrectly. Speaking out of turn does not constitute an incorrect buzz for purposes of counting incorrect answers. The make up question begins with the number of incorrect answers that were tallied when the student spoke out of turn on the original question.

### Rules Regarding Cheating

**Cheating is absolutely prohibited and players who cheat are subject to immediate disqualification from the tournament.** This includes but is not limited to accessing outside resources and other obvious situations where a clear and unfair advantage is being obtained. Students must have cameras on at all times and are not allowed to have other people in the physical room they are playing from.

If cheating is suspected (definitive proof is not needed; a suspicion from the moderator suffices), the moderator must immediately contact IAC at the end of the question by emailing [info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:info@iacompetitions.com) with the subject line being "Moderator Cheating Suspicion in Room (Number)." The match then immediately stops. The moderator will explain the situation confidentially to IAC officials, who may take further preventative action as needed, e.g. by sending an official proctor to watch the match. If a player currently playing (not coaches, parents, or anyone else watching the match) suspects cheating, they may likewise bring it to the attention of IAC by calling "Cheating suspicion" between questions, then emailing [info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:info@iacompetitions.com) with the subject line being "Player Cheating Suspicion in Room (Number)." The match then immediately stops and the player must explain the allegation in a way that both parties can hear all communication. The player(s) who is/are being accused then has/have the right of reply.

IAC proctors and tournament staff (not the moderator) at all times have the right to assess any penalty with the exception of a ban from the tournament of a player at any point without further recourse to protest. In the event that a ban from the tournament is considered, then the situation will be explained to the Tournament Director and the Executive Director of International Academic Competitions (David Madden). Both the respective Tournament Director for the age division and the Executive Director must agree for a student to be disqualified from the entire tournament. The directors may consult with players, coaches, proctors match officials, or others as necessary in this, or any other punitive process.

International Academic Competitions reserves the right at any point to require additional measures from any student. These include, but are not limited to, asking students to maintain their hands in a certain manner, requiring screensharing, showing the camera around the room to instantly confirm no one else is in the room, etc. If a player refuses to comply, that player is automatically disqualified from the tournament.

IAC proctors and tournament officials (but not moderators) reserve the right at all times to assess penalties including, but not limited to, banning a particular student from a question, the match, or the tournament; as well as deducting points on a question or questions.

### **Supremacy Clauses**

**If there is a discrepancy between the Official Bee Rules file and what is on this summary, then it is this Official Bee Rules summary that in fact takes precedence.** The file, accessible at <https://www.historybowl.com/resources/official-rules/> labeled “**Official Conventions, Precedents, and Standards for Answer Acceptance,**” also is considered to be an official part of the Official Rules for the purposes of the tournament.

As always, International Academic Competitions reserves the right to at all times make non-protestable executive decisions in the best interest of the tournament to handle situations that are not explicitly discussed in this summary or the Official Rules. This is particularly true for issues involving internet connectivity, the COBA buzzer, or other peculiarities of running this tournament online. Questions on the rules, or on any aspect of the tournament should be directed to [info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:info@iacompetitions.com)