

# 2009 OPTIMIST BRAIN BOWL COMPETITION RULES

## 2009 ADDITIONS

1. Team members may not bring phones, ipods or other electronic devices to the competition tables. All electronic devices in the competition room must be turned off and stored.
2. Notes may only be taken by one designated coach per team per oral round. Spectators may not take notes. If the team does not have a designated adult coach for that round, an alternate team member not participating in the round may take notes for the team.
3. All team members must sign a Round Roster sheet for each round.

## TEAM MAKE-UP

1. Teams consist of five members. Although not recommended, teams of less than five will be allowed to compete. Two is minimum.
2. Each team may have a sixth member as an alternate. The alternate may replace another team member in any of the rounds, including the written round. However, no team member changes may be made once a round is under way.
3. The grade level of the oldest team member determines the competition level of the team. Sixth grade teams must consist of only sixth graders. Seventh grade teams must have at least one seventh grader. Eighth grade teams must have at least one eighth grader. Both seventh and eighth grade teams may also include younger students.
4. Each team selects a team member to sit in a designated seat and act as the spokesperson, the only member who can give the answer. This helps prevent team members from shouting out answers and helps the judges to listen properly for team answers. It also encourages the teams to take the time to discuss their answers. A team may change its spokesperson during the competition, but may not do so during a round.
5. One team member is to sign, and thereby accept on behalf of the team, the score sheet at the end of each oral round. Score sheets are also signed by one of the judges. The team should also keep track of the team's scores for all oral rounds played during the morning. Note that corrections MAY occur during the day due to protests and identification of poor questions/answers.

## THE RULES

6. Questions are asked from all academic areas.
7. The Brain Bowl Competition generally consists of one written round, often a "bye," three or four preliminary oral rounds, two oral elimination rounds, and the final oral rounds that determine the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade champions. All teams participate in the written round and the four oral rounds in the morning, with one oral round often being a "bye." The top eight teams at each grade level advance to the oral elimination rounds in the afternoon. The second elimination round involves the winners from the first elimination round (four teams at each grade level). The final oral round involves the winners from the second elimination round (two teams at each grade level).
8. If there are an odd number of teams at any grade level, some teams will have an additional bye. Those teams' scores for a bye will be determined by averaging the scores for their other oral rounds.
9. All teams compete in the written round, but will do so at different times. It consists of 50 written multiple-choice questions and is scheduled as a standard round. Team members (5 max.) work together and turn in one team answer sheet. Teams must not discuss the written round after they have taken it, as they may be providing information to teams which have not yet taken the written round.
10. The oral rounds, elimination rounds, and final rounds each involve two teams competing against each other and consist of 30 questions each. Multiple sessions of the oral rounds and elimination rounds are held in various rooms. Verbal answers are given only by a team's designated spokesperson. Although any team member may activate the "buzzer" on behalf of his or her team, only answers supplied by the spokesperson will be accepted. Answers blurted out by other team members will be ignored.
11. Each team is seated at its own table, and each table has a single "buzzer." Scratch paper will be provided. The only paper allowed at the table is that provided by the officials.
12. The Reader reads the questions one at a time. Both teams have the opportunity to ring the buzzer and answer each question. The "buzzers" allow only one lamp to be lit at one time - the *first one* in. Team members must keep their hands to the side of the buzzer; "hovering" directly over the buzzer is not allowed. A team which accidentally rings its buzzer will be treated as though it has intentionally done so.