



SUMMARY OF UPDATED NOSB COMPETITION RULES

9/29/2014



PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THE ENTIRE REVISED RULES DOCUMENT
(available at <http://nosb.org/compete/competition-rules/>)

One major change has been made to the rules for the 2014-2015 competition year. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of ocean science (the focus on biogeochemistry, for example), the competition questions themselves are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary, making them extremely difficult to categorize as simply biology, chemistry or geology. Therefore, the National Office (with approval from the Regional Coordinators) will be **removing the categories (biology, chemistry, geology, etc.) from the competition questions**. When Moderators read the questions aloud at the competitions, they will no longer indicate the category. Rules #18, 37, 45 & 64 have been changed to indicate **a question is in play once the Moderator has identified the FORMAT of the question (multiple choice or short answer)**.

(While not specified in the competition rules, the categories will also be removed from the competing students' Team Challenge Question sheets. The categories will remain on the answer sheets to assist with volunteer recruitment, editing and grading on the actual day of competition).

Additional minor language revisions and updates have been made to many of the other competition rules to assist with clarity. Therefore, it is in a team's best interest to read the entire rules document. Any language changes or updates have been highlighted in yellow. Some revisions/updates of importance are summarized below:

- Rule 5 – The National Office is emphasizing that teams are NOT permitted to switch regional bowls. Once a team has participated in a regional bowl, that bowl becomes their bowl for all future competitions. Any changes MUST be approved by the Regional Coordinators and the National Office. If prior approval is not obtained, a team that switched will be disqualified from competing.
- Rule 9 - The National Office is emphasizing that teams attending Finals must arrive and depart on the designated dates and be in attendance throughout the duration of ALL competition events and activities.
- Rule 12 – Rule 12 has been revised to include updated information on the Science Expert Briefing, a mandatory component for teams attending the Finals competition.
- Rule 13 – Team Challenge Question Graders, Chief Sciences Judges and Chief Rules Judges have been added to the list of volunteers needed to host a competition (as well as a dedicated room (or 2) for grading and Judge's appeals). Regional Coordinators can exercise flexibility in staffing the volunteer roles under Rule 13 based on availability of volunteers and unexpected circumstances (inclement weather, etc.).
- Rule 15 (and others, as appropriate) – The use of “6-minute buzzer halves” has been revised to “6-minute buzzer segments” to more adequately describe the competition format.
- Rules 20 – 24 – The language of these rules has been revised to clarify what constitutes a blurt scenario and what constitutes consultation amongst team members.

- Rule 36 – Rule 36 has been revised to allow audience members to have the official competition programs out during the competition rounds. However, writing utensils are still prohibited and note taking is not allowed. Also, an exception has been added allowing official photographers, videographers, Regional Coordinators National Office staff to use their cell phones (for taking photographs OR in cases of an emergency) in the competition rooms, as long as their use will not interfere with the competition.
- Rule 75 – Rule 75 has been clarified to ensure players, coaches and teams understand receiving TWO official warnings during a competition will lead to disqualification.