

Knowledge Bowl Rules for Officials

Readers and Judges are essential to a successful Knowledge Bowl meet!

Written Round:

- While teams are completing their Written Round, Officials review the Oral Round questions. If someone disputes a question and/or answer, correct it or eliminate it and agree on which alternate question to use in its place. All rooms must use the same oral question packets. At the State Meet, only answers that are agreed upon during the question review will be accepted as correct.

Oral Rounds:

- **Readers** will read the questions and keep score. **Judges** will also keep score, operate the equipment, ensure correct reading of questions, settle disputes, and keep order in the room. If there is no Judge in the room, the Reader is responsible for all duties.
- Before each Oral Round begins, Officials should test the equipment, check teams in, and identify the team spokespersons.
 - Wait up to five minutes for a tardy team and/or team member at the start of any oral round. If the team and/or team member is not seated at their table during that five-minute period, the team and/or team members will not be allowed into the room until the score check following questions 15 or 30. If the tardiness is caused by a delay in other rooms, please wait to begin the round without penalty to the team.
- The question officially starts as soon as the Reader begins to say the question number. The questions should be read clearly and loudly. **WHEN A TEAM BUZZES IN, STOP READING THE QUESTION AT THAT POINT!** The Official in charge of the Pocket Box will announce when a team buzzes in by calling out the school or the corresponding Pocket Box letter.
- As a question is read by the Reader, the Judge should follow along to confirm the correct reading of the question. Stop reading if the question is read in such a way that it is substantially altered. A question read incorrectly should be discarded and an alternate should be used. Any teams eliminated from a question due to an incorrect answer will be excluded from alternate questions used due to procedural problems, on that same question.
- When the 15 seconds are up, the Pocket Box will beep. The Reader should indicate that the team's time is up by saying, "Answer?". If the team does not respond within 3 seconds, the Reader will say, "No answer", and the Judge would call out the next team that buzzed in. If the first team fails to answer the question which has NOT been read in its entirety and no other teams have buzzed in, the remaining two teams will have the question read in its entirety. The Reader should state that they are rereading, and start at the beginning.
- **Once the question is read in its entirety, and the Reader made it aware, teams have 3 seconds to buzz in. If the wrong answer is given by a team, the other teams who have not buzzed in have 3 seconds to buzz in, or go to the next question.** If 1 or 2 teams have buzzed in, and the remaining team(s) ask a question, do not respond with an answer until any team(s) already buzzed in have given their answer. **QUESTIONS MAY BE READ IN THEIR ENTIRETY ONLY ONCE.**
- Do not give verbal or nonverbal clues for more information in a situation where a team gives an incomplete answer. Verbal or nonverbal clues include the use of the words "be more specific, please", long pauses, or gestures. Answers will be evaluated in their original forms.
- If any question and/or discrepancy arises, confer with the Judge (if there is one) as to whether the answer is acceptable. A dispute on a question or an answer can only be raised by competing team members through their team spokesperson, or their alternate spokesperson, and must be done at the time it occurs before the next question is read. Any spectators, including coaches who aren't reading/judging, are not allowed to have a say in the dispute.

DISPUTES MUST BE SETTLED IN THE ROOM AS THEY OCCUR, IN A TIMELY MANNER. IF THERE IS NO JUDGE IN THE ROOM, THE READER'S DECISION IS FINAL.

- The spokesperson is responsible for stating the answer. The spokesperson can designate an alternate spokesperson **prior to the expiration of time** to answer by saying, "I defer to ..." (point to another team member or say their name), or use similar language.

- A team may respond with one piece of relevant information in addition to the answer, which is related to that specific question. Samples might include author and text or number of degrees in a larger angle and a smaller angle in a math problem. If more than one piece of relevant and related information is given or if neither Official knows if that second piece of information is correct, the answer is incorrect. Articles that begin a title ("a", "an", "the") are excluded from consideration as part of the answer. **Information that is printed in the question (read or unread) is not necessary for the answer but may be included without penalty.**
 - Ex. Q: "Call me Ishmael" is the first line in what book? Answer: Moby Dick
A team may buzz in after "Ishmael", answer "Moby Dick by Herman Melville" and be correct.
- Answers to math questions must include units, unless the question already asks for the unit.
 - Ex. Q: A bug walks 15 feet one day and 10 feet the next day. How far did the bug move?
A: 25 feet (must say "feet")
 - Ex. Q: A bug walks 15 feet one day and 10 feet the next day. How many feet did the bug move?
A: 25 ("feet" is optional)
- Pronunciations do not have to be exact. A plausible or phonetic pronunciation is usually acceptable unless it demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding about the correct answer.
 - Ex. **Malcolm the Tenth** is not acceptable for **Malcolm X**.
- As a general rule, while leeway may be given to vowel sounds, consonants should be in the correct order, and syllables should not be added or omitted.
 - Ex. **Olduvai** is not the same as **Olvudai**.
- A player may be prompted to spell a phonetically close response. In such cases, the exact spelling is not always required.
 - Ex. If a player says **muh-NAY** and is prompted to spell, a response of **M-A-N-A-Y** would be sufficient to remove ambiguity with **Monet**.
- Ask for "quiet" when unnecessary noise erupts from either teams or spectators. If there is a Judge in the room, they have control over consequences for poor sportspersonlike behavior by team members or spectators. Suggested guidelines: first time--official verbal warning; second time--team member is asked to leave the room and is disqualified from participation in that round. In all cases, notify the meet coordinator and they will notify the coaches of affected students.
- Conduct **score checks and check the classroom door for any spectators waiting to enter after questions 15, 30, and 45**. Verify scores with the Judge (if there is one) and teams in the room.
- *If cell phones or other electronic devices are seen or heard during competition rounds, the student violating the policy will be given a warning. If cell phones or other electronic devices are seen or heard during competition rounds a second time during the meet by the same student, the student violating the policy will be disqualified for the remainder of the round. The team may continue without any subs, and the student may rejoin the team for successive rounds. If a team is cheating with their phone or smartwatch they will be disqualified from the round and all points earned by that team during that round will be forfeited.
 - This rule does not apply to cell phones or other devices used for medical/accessibility needs.

Readers:

- After each answer is given, state "correct" or "incorrect". If two answers are required and one is incorrect, then it is incorrect. If you come to a word that may have a questionable pronunciation while reading, please spell the word.
- When you come to a question where teams may need pencil and paper to arrive at an answer, please announce "Pencil and Paper" *before* you read the question.
- If a question has a fill-in-the-blank answer in the middle, say the word "blank" for that space. If the answer completes the sentence, you should simply stop reading.
 - Ex. "The Eiffel Tower is in "blank," France." OR "The Eiffel Tower is in..."