

International Academic Competitions

presents the

2024 Varsity and Junior Varsity National Championships

of the



National
History Bowl



National
History Bee



National
Geography Bee



National
Science Bee



National
Academic Bee



United States
History Bee



NATIONAL
POLITICAL
SCIENCE BEE



UNITED STATES
GEOGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIPS



Arlington, VA and Washington, DC – April 25- 28, 2024

Pre-Tournament Email #1

Dear Coaches, Parents, Teachers, and Players,

Thank you for registering for the 2024 National History Bee & Bowl / US History Bee / US Geography Championships / National Geography Bee / National Science Bee / National Academic Bee / National Political Science Bee National Championships! We're one week away from the big weekend in Washington, DC and Arlington, VA on April 25-28 and we are excited to be welcoming 144 History Bowl teams (84 Varsity, 60 Junior Varsity), as well as all of our participants in the individual events. This email is known as **Pre-Tournament Email # 1**. It contains many important updates regarding Nationals weekend. **Please be sure to read it through in full!** Further

Pre-Tournament Emails will be sent in the next few days. Please also consult the main [Varsity /Junior Varsity Nationals website](#) for further information on Nationals (particularly information on schedules, and how each competition works).

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1. Cancellation/Refund Policies

- a. **Official Refund Policy** - As per the [registration website](#), the deadline for refunds has passed.
- b. **History Bowl** - Canceling teams after the registration deadline (which was April 12) can wreak havoc with the fairness of the draw, as the draw is intricately seeded and needs to be done in multiples of 6 teams. Once we have set brackets, finding a team of comparable difficulty to replace a team that is dropping is even harder. Not only is this a hassle, but it often results in a financial loss for us as getting teams to play on short notice typically results in teams playing for a steep discount (or even free) after we have for staff travel and lodging.
 - i. **By Monday, April 22nd at 11:59pm EDT - 50% of the registration fee per team penalty.** If you are still coming to Nationals with a smaller number of teams or for individual events, you must pay this before being allowed to compete. If you are not coming to Nationals and have paid, you will have your registration fees refunded minus this 50% penalty fee (not including credit card fees). If you are not coming to Nationals and haven't paid, your school will be invoiced.
 - ii. **After the above deadline - NO refunds will be given.** If you are still coming to Nationals with a smaller number of teams, you must pay in full for all teams, including the ones originally registered who are dropping, before being allowed to compete. If you are not coming to Nationals and have paid for the no-show teams, they will not be refunded. If you are not coming to Nationals and did not pay, your school will still be invoiced.

- iii. **If you are not comfortable with the above policies** please email hs-info@iacompetitions.com to cancel by Monday night. Your continued presence in the draw past that point implies acceptance of this policy!
- c. **Individual Events** - while we do not need replacement students the way we do in the Bowl, it still affects the fairness of the draws. Thus please note the following updated cancelation deadline:
 - i. **By Monday, April 22nd at 11:59pm - 50% of the registration per person penalty.** Credit card processing fees can not not be refunded.
 - ii. **After the above deadline - NO refunds will be given.** No refunds will be provided for dropped students and payments are still due for anyone who was originally signed up.
 - iii. **If you are not comfortable with the above policies** please email hs-info@iacompetitions.com to cancel by Monday night. Your continued presence in the draw past that point implies acceptance of this policy!
- d. **Submitting Payments** - **Note that with the exception of schools with dropped teams (who must submit payment in full for all remaining events before being allowed to compete) we will not otherwise turn anyone away at nationals for lack of payment in advance of the competitions!** If when you registered you chose to pay by check (instead of paying immediately by credit card) and you would like to change your payment to credit card, please email hs-info@iacompetitions.com to get a payment link.
 - i. **Onsite Payments - IF you have a copy of your invoice OR your registration AND are paying by check, you may drop off your payment at the Help Desk during Nationals.** Please note that the Help Desk is normally very busy and receipts will not be provided, your cashed check will be your receipt. If you have your invoice you can also pay by credit card (plus a 4% processing fee).
 - ii. **Payment after the event - by May 8.** Any payment received after May 8 will accrue a \$25 per day late fee. This includes payments from purchase orders. Please account for the time it takes your school to process invoices and purchase orders.
 - iii. **Payment Types.** Credit cards were accepted when you registered. Otherwise checks should be made out to **International Academic Competitions** and be mailed to:

International Academic Competitions
P. O. Box 5659
Burlington, VT 05402
 - iv. **Payment Verification** - there is no need for emails asking us to verify payment to be sure that students can compete. We will try to verify payments upon request, but this can take awhile (especially if a check was mailed) and we will not be able to do this at all once our team has left for Arlington.
 - v. **Outstanding Payments from Regional/State Tournaments** - if you have outstanding payments due from Regional / State events earlier this year you will not be able to compete at Nationals unless all payments from Regional and State events have been paid in full! These can be paid for by cash (exact

change please) check or credit card (4% processing fee) at the Help Desk at Nationals if needed.

2. Verifying Enrollment/Age Division Switches/Geography Age Division Policy

a. Verify your National History Bowl Team Registration

- i. Please check and make sure you have the right number of teams registered for the National History Bowl in both the Varsity and Junior Varsity Divisions by going to the [Teams Coming to the 2024 National Championships](#) page.
- ii. If your numbers and/or divisions do not match what you registered for, please email hs-info@iacompetitions.com as soon as possible to clarify.
- iii. Please note that the divisions for the National Geography Bee and the US Geography Championships (though not the American Geography Exam, Map and Flag Exam, and the Historical Geography Exam) are by age, not by grade.
 1. Junior Varsity - born on or after July 1st, 2008
 2. Varsity - born before July 1st, 2008

3. Rosters and Roster Changes

- a. Rosters will be submitted electronically this year through [this link](#).
- b. All Rosters must be submitted by Thursday, April 25th at 11:59 pm though if you need to make changes on short notice due to illness or other reasons, you can still do this (though please then submit a new roster form).
- c. Remember, at Nationals, there is no requirement that team members compete beforehand at regionals and there is no limit on team size at Nationals. As always, it is forbidden to switch teams once you have started playing for a particular team from your school at Nationals.

4. Filler and Standby Teams

- a. We are currently looking for 2 Junior Varsity teams to round out the draw. If you have an extra team in either division (qualification does not matter for this) that would like to play (the usual team prices of \$795 for a team of 3+ students, \$525 for a team of 2, or \$295 for a solo team still apply), then please email hs-info@iacompetitions.com as soon as possible. It is permitted to enter the Bowl even if you didn't play it at all at Regionals this year.
- b. For both Varsity and JV, we are also looking for standby teams to enter the draw if a team drops at any point up until Saturday morning. Standby teams need to be able to be within 10 miles of Arlington, VA on Saturday, April 27th at 7:30am. Standby teams are given variable pricing depending on needs to fill the draw – these are worked out on a case by case basis. The closer we get to the start of play on Saturday morning, April 27, the likelier it is that teams would play for free, though earlier than that, they are likely to be given a discounted offer of registration. Of course, the longer you wait, the likelier it is that another team will be given the spot so if you are interested in competing, you are encouraged to take any standby team offer that is available.
- c. **It is encouraged to apply for standby team status in the History Bowl if you are coming for the individual events (including if you're otherwise just coming for geography and/or science events)! Teams of 1-2 students in the Bowl**

are common at Nationals. Note that there is no requirement that standby teams need to have qualified – all are welcome to be standby teams in the age division that applies. As always, all students on a standby team must come from the same school/homeschool group.

5. Madden Ranks (History Bowl Seeds)

- a. On the [Teams Registered for 2024 National Championships](#) page, there is a column labeled Madden Ranks. Madden Ranks will be posted by Monday evening.
- b. The rank will correspond largely to your seed in the tournament if you are seeded in the top $\frac{1}{3}$ of the draw in your division, though we may make a few adjustments to the ranks before Nationals as we further review team lineups, stats results, add any standby teams, and make a few minor adjustments for geographic balance in the morning pools.
- c. Madden Ranks can still change slightly after the draw is announced if there are last minute drops or other needed adjustments.
- d. Note that every team is seeded, but only the top $\frac{1}{3}$ of teams have their rank publicly available before the tournament. All teams' pre-tournament seeds will be visible in the post-tournament analysis.

6. Late Registration for Individual Events

- a. Bee Events and US Geography Championships
 - i. Students can still register for the National History Bee, the US History Bee, the US Geography Championships, the National Geography Bee, the National Science Bee, and the National Academic Bee until **Tuesday, April 23rd at 11:59pm EDT**.
 - ii. As the originally posted deadline has already passed, there will be an additional \$10 late fee for all subsequent Bee and USGC registrations.
 - iii. Note that after Tuesday, April 23rd at 11:59pm EDT, IAC may allow additional registrations but this is not guaranteed (and in particular, if you are a top-flight player in a given subject, it is less likely that you will be allowed to compete in an event on short notice, as your addition to the draw would be more likely to skew things unfairly.)
- b. National Championships Exams
 - i. Students can still register for the written National Championship Exams until **Wednesday, April 24th at 11:59pm EDT**.
 - ii. As the originally posted deadline has already passed, there will be an additional \$5 late fee for all subsequent National Championship Exam registrations
 - iii. Note that after Wednesday, April 24th at 11:59pm EDT, IAC may allow additional registrations up to 1 hour before the exam begins (based on available copies of the exam) but this is not guaranteed.

7. Pre-Nationals Survey

- a. Please fill out the [pre-tournament survey](#) by the evening Tuesday, April 23rd. This will help us keep track of your interest in various aspects of Nationals Weekend. Having the the following information on hand will help you to complete the survey:

- i. **Spectators** - Will your team be bringing a large number of spectators? If so, we will try to plan (though cannot guarantee) that you will play your games in larger rooms which can accommodate larger numbers of people.
- ii. **Mobility Restrictions** - If you have anyone on your team or spectating that needs consideration.
- iii. **Birthdays** - If anyone on your team (including the coach!) has a birthday between April 25th and April 28th (during the tournament) so we can provide a small gift.
- iv. **National History Bee Play in Game (at 10:45pm on Friday for those who did not play all 3 regionals sets and would like to qualify for the National History Bee)** - Include the names of students that wish to participate. Please see below for details.
- v. **Standby Teams** - If you have any students interested in forming a Standby Team for the History Bowl.
- vi. **Interviews** - if you have any students/coaches that are interested in being interviewed to be featured on the IAC website, YouTube channel, social media and/or promotional materials.
- vii. **Opening Ceremonies** - if you have any students that are interested in being considered to represent your state by carrying the state flag for opening ceremonies. We will need the student's name, state, and email in order to consider them for this role.
- viii. **Adding Emails** - add people who should also be receiving these emails. Please forward them this email as well as adding their email on the survey so they will receive future communications before and during Nationals.

8. Political Science Bee and Day

- a. If you have registered for the Political Science Day in DC, you will receive a separate survey with required information to be able to enter the Senate Office Building and the Embassy.
- b. If you have registered for the Political Science Bee, you will receive a separate survey to choose your discussion group.

9. National History Bee Play in Game

- a. The Bee Play In Game will be on Friday, April 26th at 10:45pm. The location is to be announced (as it depends on how many people sign up.) You can check in at the Help Desk.
- b. The Bee Play In Game is meant for anyone who did not compete on all 3 sets of Bee Regionals questions who would like a final chance to qualify for the National History Bee.
- c. Students attending just for geography or science events, younger siblings who happen to be at Nationals, students who never competed at any regionals, and students who did not qualify for the National History Bee National Championships are all welcome to compete.
- d. The play in game (one round of 30 questions) is free. The top 50% of students in each age division in the play in will qualify to compete on Sunday, April 28 in the National History Bee
- e. **Participation in the Play in game is a commitment that if you finish in the top 50% you will immediately go to the Help Desk and pay the \$139 registration**

fee for the National History Bee that takes place on Sunday, April 28th. If you do not intend to do this, please do not participate as you would be taking a space from someone else.

10. Dress Code

- a. You are welcome to wear t-shirts and jeans at all times, though if you would like to dress up, feel free (there are always many teams who do, so you won't look out of place if you go that route).
- b. Basically, wear whatever will give you the greatest confidence in your matches!!

11. Team Provided Staff

- a. If you signed up to staff, Joseph Cox is the Staff Director for Nationals and will be in contact with you for your moderating assignments
- b. If you did not sign up to staff and are still interested, let Joseph Cox know at joseph@iacompetitions.com as there is still availability to read for the History Bowl.

12. Check In Policy and Pre-Ordered Commemorative T-Shirts

- a. *History Bowl teams must check in* but only need one person to do this.
- b. History Bowl check in will be at the Help Desk at any point on Friday. If you are a local team who is not planning on otherwise coming on Friday, you can email hs-info@iacompetitions.com to check in.
- c. Pre-ordered Nationals T-shirts can be picked up at the souvenir desk in front of the Arlington Ballroom.

13. Arrival at the Hotel and Parking

- a. From the Reagan National Airport - there is a free shuttle to the hotel, or you can use the Metro as the station is immediately under the hotel and only one stop from the airport.
- b. Other Airports - there is no hotel provided transportation from Dulles or the Baltimore airport. For Dulles there is a Metro option and there are airport shuttle companies in the area available.
- c. Parking at the Hotel - there is a daily fee for parking at the hotel, the next email will include the confirmed rate
- d. Nearby Parking - There is a parking garage at the [Crystal City Shoppes](#) nearby the hotel. Parking is \$23 a day during the week and Free after 4pm and on weekends.

14. Food and Dining

- a. Food is not included in the price for Nationals
- b. There is a restaurant at the hotel, as well as several restaurants in the Crystal Gateway Mall just below the hotel
- c. There are multiple options within walking distance

15. International Events

- a. [International Geography Championships](#)
 - i. July 13-20, 2024 in Vienna, Austria
 - ii. Qualification
 1. If you have already qualified at a Regional Competitions you do not have to qualify again at Nationals

2. National Geography Bee - Finish in the top 50%
 3. United States Geography Championships - Finish in the top 50%
- b. [International Environmental Science Olympiad](#)
- i. December 27-31, 2024 in San Juan, Puerto Rico
 - ii. Qualification
 1. National Science Bee - Finish in the top 50% in your age division
 2. National Environmental Science Exam - Finish in the top 50% in your age division
- c. [International History Olympiad](#)
- i. July, 2025 in London, England
 - ii. Qualification
 1. If you have already qualified at a Regional competition you do not have to qualify again at Nationals.
 2. National History Bowl - Finish as a 3rd place team (or higher) in your morning group or finish your morning group with a 3 and 2 record.
 3. National History Bee - Finish in the top 50%
 4. US History Bee - Make the Playoffs (i.e. Semifinals)
- d. [International Geography Olympiad](#) (aka iGeo)
- i. August 19-24 2024 in Dublin, Ireland
 - ii. Qualification
 1. The top 4 Varsity students form Team USA and represent the United States at iGeo. Travel and Expenses for Team USA are subsidized - your USGC registration fees help make this possible!

16. Need Help?

- a. The Help Desk will be in its usual location at the top of the Escalators if you need assistance in person
- b. The best way to contact us both before and during the event will be at hs-info@iacompetitions.com.

That's all for now! Best of luck with your final studying and preparations, and we look forward to seeing you at Nationals later this week!

Best regards,

International Academic Competitions