

International Academic Competitions

IAC Middle & Elementary National Championships

Bee Competition Rules and Scoring Summary for Playoff Rounds

This document is intended as a supplement to the preliminary rules and an outline of the playoff scoring system used at the IAC Middle & Elementary School National Championships. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the preliminary rules contained in the document (online at www.iacompetitions.com/rules-scoresheets-question-distribution/ under the title: **IAC Middle & Elementary School National Championships – Bee Preliminary Rounds Scoring System and Rules Summary**) still apply in full.

If you have specific questions regarding more detailed aspects of the rules, please ask a tournament official. The following scoring rules apply for the playoff rounds of the National Science Bee, National History Bee, National Geography Bee, US History Bee, and National Academic Bee. These rules are also used for the finals of the Siblings Academic Bee, and Parents and Teachers Academic Bee.

If you answer a question during the early part of the question correctly (at the point on the page that contains **bold and underlined text**), you will receive 6 points.

If you answer a question during the middle part of the question correctly (at the point on the page that contains **bold but not underlined text**), you will receive 5 points.

If you answer a question towards the end of the question (at the point on the page that contains plain text), you will receive 4 points.

If you answer a question correctly after it has finished being read, you will receive 3 points.

If you answer incorrectly during the question, you will lose 2 points.

If you answer incorrectly after the question is done, you will lose 1 point.

3 incorrect answers still kills the question.

If exactly three students are playing at the start of a question, the rules regarding negative points do not change (unlike in the preliminary rounds in this situation where there is an exception to the Minus One Rule).

Protests are adjudicated immediately. If a student protests during the question, the question is halted until the protest is resolved. During this time, competing students must remain silent and in place, and not consult their cell phones, notes, or any other resources. A student may continue to protest the question until the moderator gets more than a few words into the next question. In the playoffs, if a protest is upheld, then point changes (whether positive or negative) that took place after the protesting student buzzed on that question are disregarded.

Please consult the online schedules or tournament staff to inquire as to how many points are required to go out in a round. Usually it will be 40 points, but this may be changed at the discretion of tournament staff. Announcements made in a playoff room immediately prior to the round by IAC staff as to the number of points required to advance supersede any other posted rules on this matter.