

IAC INTERNATIONAL BEE RULES SHEET

This document is intended as an outline of the rules of the competition. If you have specific questions regarding more detailed aspects of the rules, please ask a tournament official.

Format: Each event is a buzzer-based competition, meaning the students will hold a buzzer, listen to a question, and attempt to be the first to buzz in and answer correctly. The questions are written in a “pyramidal” form in which the more difficult information is earlier in the question so that players with deeper knowledge are more likely to gain the point.

Structure: The Bee (History, Geography, Science, or Academic) is played in two sections – Preliminaries and Finals. During the Preliminary Section, you will be playing against up to 9 other students in an individual, buzzer-based competition in a race to answer up to 6 tossup questions out of a set of 30. Each correct tossup answer will earn you one point. Once you reach 6 correct answers, you will earn bonus points based on how quickly you reach the 6th right answer. There are 3 preliminary rounds, so 90 total questions. Here’s the bonus structure:

Reaching 6 pts on...	Bonus	Total
6	9	15
7, 8	8	14
9, 10	7	13
11, 12	6	12
13, 14, 15	5	11
16, 17, 18	4	10
19, 20, 21	3	9
22, 23, 24	2	8
25, 26, 27	1	7
28, 29, 30	0	6

Incorrect Responses: Three incorrect answers will end the opportunity to answer a particular tossup for all students. If the reader is still reading the question, and you give the third incorrect answer, you will be deducted one point. If the reader has finished reading the question, there is no penalty. There is no penalty for giving either the first or the second incorrect answer.

Timing: The reader will wait three seconds after they have finished reading the question before calling it dead and moving on to the next. If someone rings in during this time, and is incorrect, then the three second count begins again. The reader will also allow you three seconds after you have buzzed in to give your answer. You need not be recognized before you give your answer, although it is advisable to wait until the reader acknowledges you. Timing decisions are not protestable.

Protests: If you wish to protest, you must bring it to the reader’s attention immediately. Protests must be initiated by the player and not by a spectator. You may issue a protest if you feel that an answer you have given should have been accepted, but you may not protest someone else’s answer.

Answers: You should always give as little information in an answer as possible to get the answer correct. For example, if the question is about Thomas Jefferson, answering “Jefferson” is acceptable. If any portion of your answer is incorrect, the whole answer is incorrect. The reader may “prompt” you for more information if necessary. For example, if you were to answer “Bush” on a question about a US President, your reader may ask you to be more specific to determine which Bush you are referring to.

Using the Buzzer: You must buzz before answering. If you speak out of turn, you do not lose a point, but you are disqualified for the question. The question is still alive for everyone else. The only player allowed to speak is the player who buzzed on that particular question. Any other speaking will be penalized by that player not being able to buzz on that question. This will always be the judgment of the reader and may not be protested.

Final Round: After the Preliminary rounds are over, the top individuals will move into the Finals Section. The top half of players from the preliminary rounds in each event qualify for the Asian Championships, and the top half of students in the History and Geography Bees qualify for the International History Olympiad and the International Geography Championships, respectively. The players in the Finals will play a single round using the same rules as in the preliminary rounds.

Divisions: There will be up to four divisions: Varsity, Junior Varsity, Middle School, and Elementary. In some cases, divisions may be combined depending on numbers, but scores will still only be compared to other students in the same age division for Internationals and Asians qualifying purposes, as well as for the tournament itself, provided at least two students are competing in one of the above-listed divisions.