



# Pentathlon



Teams of students in grades 9 through 12 compete to complete math, science, and engineering activities in five rounds of competition

Contest Support provided by the University of Texas School of Education and Psychology

## Contest Rules

(Revised August 2018)

### Teams

All high schools are invited to participate. Each school may send up to two teams of four students. The teams must consist of no more than two students from grades 11 and 12 and should be a mix of both boys and girls. Schools may choose to identify alternate students for their purposes, but **only** four students should be registered with Academic Rodeo. Substitutions are allowed the day of the contest.

Each student must present a signed parental consent form (Release and Indemnification Form) available on the Pentathlon page and the team will sign a Code of Conduct from the General Info page.

### Panel of Judges:

An independent panel of judges will serve to resolve all issues that might arise pertaining to rules or solutions in the competition.

### Protest Provisions:

The decision of the independent panel of judges will be the final word on problems that are protested. If the panel of judges cannot reach a consensus on a particular problem, that problem will be eliminated, and another problem presented.

1. A protest for any reason must be lodged before the winning team is announced in the competition.
2. Only the team sponsor may lodge a protest.
3. The moderator will clarify this protest provision at the beginning of the competition.

***The judges will retain the right to disqualify any team when parent(s) or representatives other than the team sponsor/teacher interfere with the flow of competition.***

**In Case of a Tie:** In case of a tie in the final round of competition, the team scores from the qualifying written test will be used to determine a winner.

### Contest Format:

1. Teams arrive for check-in at the designated time in the Contest Schedule.
2. Coaches will check team lists for correct student placement and correct spelling of the students' names. These lists are used for printing certificates.
3. Tables with signs designate the location for each team during the Testing Rounds and the Quiz Bowl Round
4. Breaks will be provided as needed during the day.
5. Pencils are provided for the written test rounds.
6. All materials are provided for the Engineering Build.

The contest will consist of five rounds. The rounds will be a mix of topics and methods of competition. Each round will be timed and scored according the rules for the specific round. Rules for the rounds follow.

Final rules for the 2019 contest are still under consideration. They will follow one of the following formats.

**Option 1: The current format**

**Round 1** – Written Test – 30 minutes

Each team member will select one test from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Each team member takes a different test.

**Round 2** – Written Test – 30 minutes

Each team member will select one test from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Test selected must be different from one taken in Round 1. Each team member takes a different test.

**Round 3** – Team Quiz Bowl – approximately 30 to 45 minutes

Scoring based on whether answer is correct and extra points based on order of answering question

**Round 4** – Engineering Project Build – 2 hours inclusive of lunch time

**Round 5** – Engineering Task Completion – Timed Activities

Timed items affect score. Overall time affects score. Course options offer increased scoring potential.

**Option 2: Incorporation of elements from Computer Science and the Science Fair**

**Round 1** – Computer Science Entry – 2 members from the team submit an entry in the Computer Science Fair. This may be a single entry completed as a team or 2 separate projects.

A standard score will be developed from the Computer Science total to add to the cumulative Pentathlon score.

**Round 2** – Science Fair Entry – 2 members from the team submit an entry in the Science Fair. This may be a single entry completed as a team or 2 separate projects.

A standard score will be developed from the Science Fair total to add to the cumulative Pentathlon score.

**Round 3** – Written Test – 30 minutes

Each team member will select one test from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Each team member takes a different test.

**Round 4** – Team Quiz Bowl – approximately 30 to 45 minutes

Scoring based on whether answer is correct and extra points received based on order of answering question

**Round 5** – Engineering Project Build & Task Completion – 2 hours building time plus the timed activities at the end of the day. Timed items affect the score in the Task Completion. Overall time affects the total score. Course options offer increased scoring potential.

## Awards

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place teams will be awarded. The team will receive a trophy and each team member will receive a Place Ribbon and will be eligible to apply for Academic Rodeo High School Scholarships.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be awarded to high scoring individuals in each written test and they will also be eligible to apply for scholarships.

Members of teams which do not place will receive Participation Certificates.

## Tips for Working with Your Team(s)

### **REMEMBER . . .**

Primary communication with Coaches and Sponsors is done through e-mail provided with the School/Group Registration done online. If a coach or sponsor is not receiving e-mail information about the contest, he or she should check Spam/Junk folders on the computer and contact Academic Rodeo for assistance with getting the current information.

Deadlines exist for a reason. Please be aware of them and follow them. The **Academic Rodeo Calendar** in a true calendar format is on the Getting Started and General Info pages. The **Pentathlon Timeline & Checklist** is on the Pentathlon page and gives detailed information about deadlines and submissions. If you have a problem with a date or deadline, please contact Academic Rodeo, realizing that usually it is not possible to make a change or give “grace” for deadlines. To be sure your students get to participate, follow the deadlines.

Please read the General Info for All Coaches and Sponsors.

The following tips and suggestions may be helpful to you in working with your students.

- Remember that each of your 4 students on a team will take at least one of the written tests — Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics – and all tests must be taken. Consider courses students have taken in determining strengths for each of these.
- UIL Study Materials in Math and Science are good resources to use in preparing the students.
- Bring a signed Release and Indemnification Agreement (on the Pentathlon page) for each student and the Code of Conduct (on the General Info page) signed by all students.
- The Engineering portion of the contest will involve constructing and/or using materials in a different way to accomplish the tasks required in the final round.