

Official National History Bee – High School (Varsity and Junior Varsity) Division Rules

1. The History Bee is played in two sections – Preliminaries and Finals. During the Preliminary Section, students compete against up to 7 other students in an individual, buzzer-based competition in a race to answer up to 8 points out of a round of **30 questions**. Each correct tossup answer will earn you one point. Once you reach 8 points, you will earn bonus points based on how quickly you reach the 8th point. There are 3 preliminary rounds, so 90 total preliminary questions in the History Bee.
2. The bonus for answering 8 points on tossup 8 is 7 points. On tossup 9 or 10, it is 6. On tossup 11 or 12 it is 5 points. For reaching 8 on tossups 13 through 15, students earn 4 points. Getting to 8 between tossup 16 and 20 will gain 3 points, between 21 and 25 nets 2 bonus points, and between 26 and 30 gets one bonus point. At the preliminary rounds at Nationals, rounds have 35 questions and if students get 8 on tossup #31-35, then they still are done for the round but get no bonus points.

To prevent matches from going on too long, three incorrect answers will end the opportunity to answer a particular tossup for all students. **If the reader has not finished reading the question, and a student gives the third incorrect answer, they will be deducted one point. So one can answer more than 8 tossups correct in a round if one has negative point(s) to one's name.** 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, though a student can always ring in no more than once per question.

3. The reader will wait three seconds after he or she has 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 students three seconds after they have buzzed in to give their answer. They need not be recognized before they give their answer, although it is advisable to wait. Timing decisions are not protestable.
4. If you wish to protest, you must do so immediately (i.e. before the next tossup begins) (within reason; a student will not be denied a protest hearing if they miss the start of the next question by less than six words into it). Only students can protest in the Bee for themselves. If a protest is ruled in the student's favor, then any student who otherwise was credited with a correct answer for the same question will be deducted the point, but pursuant bonus points if attained, will still stay with a student's score for the round.
5. If the reader botches a question, then there are makeup questions included with each round that can be used. 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, even if the correct answer was given.
6. The top Varsity and JV students will make the afternoon playoffs in the National History Bee. There is no set rule for the number of students who make the final; it is a function of how many students are in attendance, but can vary at the discretion of NHBB – there are no set rules on this point. Likewise, the

playoff structure varies from tournament to tournament, so ask your director how it will function. Ties for the last spot ONLY will be played off on buzzers (sudden death) if need be.

7. There are two basic ways of running the Bee finals at state or regional tournaments; these may also be combined with one stage following one format, and the other stage(s) following the other. The director will announce the format of the finals before they begin.

In the "Classic History Bee Finals" format, in the final round, the top two to ten students in a division all compete at once. Students typically then strive to be among the first to reach three points. After the quota of students qualifying for the next stage is reached, the scores reset to zero, and the remaining students seek to be among the first two or three students to reach four points. Finally, the scores reset to zero again, and the remaining students seek to be the first to reach six points. How many students make it into the finals will be announced at the start of the Bee – it depends on how many students attend. Some finals may only contain one or two stages rather than the full three. The Classic History Bee Finals format is used for the last stage of the National Championships playoffs as well. The top 2 Junior Varsity students race to 15 points; the top 4 Varsity students race to 12 points.

In the "Modified History Bee Finals" format, students compete for a set number of questions, and once the end of those questions is reached, the top students advance to the next stage. Sometimes, if students reach a number of points where they are mathematically assured of qualifying, they may be advanced automatically at that point, though this is not always the case. The Modified History Bee Finals format is used for the first two stages of the National Championships playoffs.

8. The playoff structure will be announced before the finals of the History Bee; the number of students making the finals will be announced in the Opening Meeting of the History Bee.
9. Students who finish in the top half of the preliminary draw qualify for Nationals in both the JV and Varsity draws respectively. The Varsity draw is typically open only to 11th and 12th graders, and homeschooled students born on or before October 1 of the given year on the website. There is no minimum age for the JV draw, though students who are not in high school and qualify for Nationals in the JV draw have then qualified for the JV Nationals in the High School Division, and not the elementary or middle school division. They may, of course, compete in the appropriate younger division as well, and thus potentially qualify for both national championships. Students can qualify for Nationals at either A set, B set, or C set tournaments. Tournaments designated "State Championships" do not require prior qualification by anyone, and are always open to out of state students.
10. All rules pertaining to conduct, cheating, and other matters contained in The Official National History Bowl High School Division Rules (a copy of which is available online at <http://www.historybowl.com/official-rules/>) also apply to The National History Bee High School Division. Likewise, rules regarding conventions and such are also applicable to the Bee, even though they are contained in other files.