

National Bee Preliminary Rules

Thank you for participating in today's event! This rules document explains the gameplay rules for this weekend's individual events: the US History Bee, International Geography Bee, and National History Bee; other documents describe the tournament structure and playoff rules. If you have specific questions regarding more detailed aspects of the rules, please ask a tournament official.

Gameplay

National Bee events are played in two phases – Preliminaries and Playoffs. During the Preliminary Rounds, you will be playing against other students in a buzzer-based competition in a race to 8 points. Once you reach 8 points, you will earn bonus points based on how quickly you reach the 8th point. Each correct tossup answer will earn you 1 point. To prevent matches from going on too long, three incorrect answers will end the opportunity to answer that tossup for all students. If the moderator 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 1st or 2nd incorrect answer.

Timing

The reader will wait three seconds after finishing reading the question before calling it dead and moving on to the next tossup. If a player buzzes in during this time and is incorrect, then the three second count begins again. After a player buzzes in, the reader will allow three seconds to give your answer. You need not be recognized before you give your answer, although it is advisable to wait. Timing decisions are not protestable.

Protests and Disrupted Tossups

If you wish to protest a question, you must bring it to the reader's attention immediately (i.e. say "protest" before the reader starts the next question) then fill out a protest form at the end of the round. You can only protest answers you have given, not the moderator's judgment on another student's answer. (The sole exception to this: protesting that the rules were not applied correctly.) If the reader botches a question, 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, and the question is still alive for everyone else.

Advancement

A player's total score in all preliminary rounds is used to determine advancement to the playoffs; full details on how many players advance to the playoffs are available in documents specific to the event. Tiebreaker tossups, if necessary, are sudden victory; an incorrect buzz on a tiebreaker tossup does not automatically eliminate you.