



**National Scholastic Championship
Official Eligibility Rules
Effective December 3, 2022**

1. **Eligible players.** Eligible players at the PACE NSC must meet **both** of the following requirements:
 - a. The player must be enrolled in 6th grade or a higher grade level for the academic year in which the NSC takes place, or be at least 12 years old by June 1 of the calendar year in which the NSC takes place. *(For the purposes of this rule, the NSC comes at the **end** of an academic year; e.g. eligible players for the 2016 NSC must be in 6th grade or higher during the 2015-16 academic year.)*
 - b. The player must **not** have received a high school diploma or equivalent or higher degree **before March 1** of the calendar year in which the NSC takes place.

For the purposes of these rules, the terms "eligible player" and "student" are interchangeable below.

2. **Schools.** Each student competes on a **team** representing a **school**.
 - a. For the purposes of these rules, a "school" is any middle school or high school which holds classes in at least one physical building.
 - b. A student may only play for a team representing a school that he or she is currently enrolled in. A player enrolled in multiple schools at once, such as a public high school and a half-day magnet program, may choose to play for any school in which they are enrolled which provides a diploma upon graduation.
 - c. Middle school teams must qualify through the same means as high school teams, at tournaments open to high school teams. Middle school students may not play for a high school team if the high school is a different school than their middle school, except in cases of multiple enrollment as specified in Eligibility Rule 2.b above.
 - d. Students attending a school that teaches a wider range of grades than a typical middle school or high school -- for instance, a school that teaches Grades 6 through 12 -- may all play together for that same school, even if some of those students are of middle school age and some are of high school age.
 - e. Homeschooled students are eligible to qualify and play in the NSC by themselves or with other students attending the same physical home school. Homeschool associations are not eligible to register teams for the NSC unless they receive special dispensation from the tournament director ("TD"). A

homeschool student who also receives a diploma from a conventional middle school or high school is eligible to play for that school so long as all other eligibility criteria are met by that player.

- f. Online schools and distance-learning programs are not eligible to register teams for the NSC unless a prospective team from such a program receives special dispensation from the TD.
 - g. A student's enrollment in collegiate coursework or academic programs, and/or past history of competition in collegiate academic tournaments, shall have no effect on that student's eligibility so long as all other eligibility criteria are met. No student may play the PACE NSC on a team representing a college or other post secondary academic institution.
 - h. Students who have changed schools in the middle of the academic year, or who changed schools between academic years, must play for the school in which they are currently and/or most recently enrolled.
3. **Team composition.** A team's roster may consist of no fewer than one student(s) and **no more than six students**. All students on a team must represent the same school. As specified in the gameplay rules, no more than four students may play for a given team in any given game at any given time, with the appropriate opportunities for substitution.
- a. **A student may play for only one team during the tournament.** Should a student on one team later play for another team, any teams besides the first shall forfeit all games in which that student plays. Teams from the same school are considered distinct teams for the purpose of this rule and all other rules.
 - b. Teams with only one or two students on their roster must receive special dispensation from the TD in order to compete.
 - c. Under no circumstances will any team be permitted to compete in the NSC unless all members of that team are enrolled in a common school. As such, any "open," "All-Star," or "chimeric" teams are barred from competing. Any team found to be violating this rule will automatically forfeit all its games across NSC weekend, including retroactive forfeits of any games that it may have already played.
4. **Adult chaperones.** Each school attending the PACE NSC must be accompanied by at least one non-competing adult ("chaperone"). This person may be the school's quizbowl coach, a teacher or administrator at the school, a parent or legal guardian, or another volunteer. There is no need for each separate team from a school to be accompanied by a distinct chaperone while the competition is ongoing. Teams must

receive special dispensation from the TD to attend the NSC without a chaperone; in general, this dispensation will not be given unless the team has a player who is a legal adult and can serve as one for official purposes.

5. **Rosters.** A complete roster of the players competing on each participating team, as well as the coach and/or chaperone for that team, shall be **submitted in advance** of the tournament to the TD or the TD's officially-specified delegate(s). Teams may revise their rosters at any point up to their official check-in on the evening before or morning of the tournament, and may verify their roster at their official check-in. The roster on file at the time of the Opening Meeting will be considered the team's official roster for all purposes.
 - a. Official rosters must use legal names or recognized abbreviations thereof ("real names") in order for tournament staff to enforce eligibility, substitution, and scheduling rules, as well as to ensure the accurate compilation of statistics. Aliases and/or pseudonyms are not permitted without special dispensation from the TD.
 - b. Each school must compete under its real name unless given special dispensation from the TD to compete under an alias and/or pseudonym. All teams representing a given school must compete under the same name.
 - c. If a school has multiple teams competing at the NSC, it must submit the rosters of those teams with a single-letter designation of "A," "B," "C," etc. ascribed to each team, such that the "A" team represents the most skilled or accomplished team, the "B" team represents the next-most skilled or accomplished team, and so on. PACE reserves the right to reassign labels if it believes a school has failed to designate its teams properly.
 - d. Any teams or students which receive special dispensation to compete under an alias and/or a pseudonym must honestly report their real names to PACE if asked by the TD or the TD's officially-specified delegate(s) prior to in-person check-in.
6. **Finality.** All judgments regarding eligibility, including judgments which are not covered in these rules, are at the TD's discretion and are final.