

NAQTSM

National Academic Quiz Tournaments, LLC

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Spring 2008

A League of Your Own?

League competition can be a great way to get students at your school active in quiz bowl and to keep them involved throughout the year. Playing in a quiz bowl league also provides the opportunity to build camaraderie (or at least friendly rivalry) among coaches and teams and to expand the local circuit.

One advantage of a quiz bowl league is that you may be able to attract more students to compete if the time commitment is only a few hours after school one day a month instead of all day on a Saturday. As you well know, kids who play quiz bowl are often involved in many other activities, and it can be challenging to find a weekend where many team members don't already have a band concert or sporting event.

Another advantage of quiz bowl leagues is that they often consist of teams within a fairly small geographic region, which means that less travel time is required to attend events. If there isn't already a league in your area, this spring is the time to starting thinking about starting one for next year. This may sound daunting, but you can simply think of a season of league play as a tournament run a few rounds at a time over the course of several months.

A common basis for forming a quiz bowl league is an existing athletic conference. Your school's activities director may already know what schools in the conference have active quiz teams or would know whom to contact to find out. You can also expand your search beyond existing affiliations; a conglomeration of public, private, and parochial schools has worked well in Michigan's Intercounty League.

The next step is to gather the coaches from potential league members for an initial meeting. Responsibility for running the league each year could rotate among member coaches. Details of the league, including a schedule, do not need to be finalized until next fall, but you should begin discussing the basic structure of the league, your budget, and your question supplier

If your league decides to use NAQT questions, the top 15% of the field will qualify for the High School National Championship Tournament under the same guidelines as for a regular tournament. Leagues run in states where there have never been NAQT tournaments are eligible for free questions.

Start talking to local coaches now; if there's enough interest, plan an initial meeting this spring and a scheduling meeting in September. It's easy to get lost in the details of running a league, let alone starting one from scratch, but we at NAQT are happy to help you along the way. If you have questions or would like more information on starting a league in your area, please email us at naqt@naqt.com.

Craig Barker has been a member of NAQT since 2001 and has been head coach of the Stevenson High School quiz bowl team in Livonia, Michigan, since 2002. He has been commissioner of the Intercounty League for four seasons.

Bookstore Quiz Bowl

In Ohio's Mahoning Valley, quiz bowl gets out of school and into the local bookstore: when a plan for a book fair for the local band boosters went sour, an opportunity came about to put quiz bowl on display.

The Barnes & Noble store in Boardman welcomes the teams of the Mahoning Valley Quiz Bowl League to their store for after-school matches. Each team in the league gets at least one chance to play at the store in regulation league matches. It's a special event for both the teams, who can schedule a book fair for their school on match day, and for the store, which attracts an afternoon crowd. An added touch comes from the moderator, Rich Morgan, weatherman for WKBN. His promotions of the events during newscasts attract additional spectators. In fact the final match of the season drew a crowd of 60, including face-painted supporters of both teams.

It may be an unexpected pairing, but a great deal of synergy occurs. According to league coordinator Greg Bossick, many teams have their best performances at the store, playing before a much larger audience. Teams also stay around for the entire event, spending the off time shopping for study materials which will benefit them later. The book fair fundraising option also allows the competing teams to earn a cut of sales for their team through distribution of vouchers.

If you'd like more information on how to set up matches at a similar location near you, please email us at naqt@naqt.com.

Dwight Kidder is a founding member of NAQT and serves as Executive Director. He also advises the Carnegie Mellon and University of Pittsburgh academic teams.

If your team has a story to share, we'd love to include it in a future issue! Please email us at newsletter@naqt.com.

Check out the fantastic prices
on practice questions on this
issue's insert!

Qualifying Tournaments

These high school tournaments are qualifiers for the 2008 NAQT High School National Championship. **No prior affiliation with NAQT or quiz bowl experience is required to attend.** To register, e-mail or phone the listed contact. Most tournaments allow out-of-state schools to attend and allow schools to bring more than one team.

Each school may attend only a single tournament using each packet set. If you have any questions about how the tournaments work, how to prepare for them, how to register for them, or how to make sure that the events you've chosen are using different packet sets, please contact NAQT at naqt@naqt.com or 888.411.6278. **This schedule may be subject to change. Please contact the tournament director to confirm the date or check the continuously updated schedule at:**

<http://www.naqt.com/schedule>

Tournament Name	Location	Set	Date	Director	Contact Information
Jones County Scholars' Bowl	Jones County Junior Coll., Ellisville, MS	SS07-A	4/3/2008	Julie Atwood	Julie.atwood@jcc.edu
2008 NAQT West Virginia State	Ohio Valley University, Vienna, WV CheongShim International Academy, South Korea	IS-76	4/4/2008	Shawn Weaver	Some1@theweavers.com
CheongShim Invitational	St. Andrew's School, Ridgeland, MS	IS-69A	4/4/2008	HyeWon Chun	ladyclare@naver.com
Faber College Classic	Seton Hall Prep School, West Orange, NJ	IS-75A	4/5/2008	Aaron Johnson	johnsona@gosaints.org
Seton Hall Prep Invitational	St. Joseph Catholic H.S., Ogden, UT	IS-73A	4/5/2008	Michael Zinsmeister	mzinsmeister@shp.org
Spring Jayhawks Invitational	Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL	IS-74	4/5/2008	Alex Salvo	asalvo@stjosephutah.com
2008 Spring FSU HS Tournament	State Coll. Area H.S., State College, PA	IS-75A	4/12/2008	Billy Beyer	Wfb04@fsa.edu
State College Academic Tournament V	Cal. Tech., Pasadena, CA	IS-75A	4/12/2008	Julie Gittings	Jag15@scasd.k12.pa.us
Technophobia Jr.	Site TBD, Houston, TX	IS-76	4/12/2008	Micah Manary	manary@caltech.edu
2008 TQBA State Championship	Dorman High School, Roebuck, SC	IS-76	4/12/2008	Chris Romero	romeroc@gmail.com
2008 NAQT South Carolina State	Gulf Coast Comm. Coll, Panama City, FL	IS-76	4/12/2008	Eric Huff	huffej@spart6.org
Gulf Coast High School Brain Bowl	Salisbury H.S., Salisbury, NC	IS-69A	4/18/2008	Dan Finley	dfinley@gulfcoast.edu
Salisbury Hippocampus Super Bowl IV	Univ. of Louisville, Louisville, KY	IS-75A	4/19/2008	Jonathan Bost	bostjt@rss.k12.nc.us
Univ. of Louisville Cardinal Invitational	Mississippi State Univ., Starkville, MS	IS-74	4/19/2008	Matthew Church	Mschur01@louisville.edu
2008 NAQT Mississippi State	Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, WI	IS-76	4/19/2008	Harry Nelson	jhn31@msstate.edu
2008 NAQT Wisconsin State	Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA	IS-76	4/19/2008	Ben Auer	bmauer@wisc.edu
2008 NAQT Virginia State	Willow Canyon H.S., Surprise, AZ	IS-76	4/19/2008	Samantha Oddi	oddi@virginia.edu
Willow Creek Invitational	Iowa State University, Ames, IA	QK07-B	4/19/2008	Anthony Thomas	Anthony.Thomas@dysart.org
2008 NAQT Iowa State	Garfield Heights H.S., Garfield Heights, OH	IS-76	4/19/2008	Scott Nystrom	smnystrom@gmail.com
2008 NAQT Ohio State	Bentley High School, Lafayette, CA	IS-76	4/19/2008	Bob Kilner	TheAmazingBobbo@aol.com
Bentley Invitational 9	Saddleback High School, Santa Ana, CA	IS-72	4/20/2008	Hether Ludwick	HLudwick@bentleyschool.net
Saddleback Invitational	Wayzata High School, Plymouth, MN	IS-71A	4/22/2008	Pat Quinn	patrick.Quinn@sausd.us
2008 NAQT Minnesota State	Carnegie Mellon Univ., Pittsburgh, PA	IS-76	4/26/2008	R. Robert Hentzel	rhentzel@gmail.com
2008 NAQT Pennsylvania State	Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA	IS-76	4/26/2008	Dan Schafer	dschafer@andrew.cmu.edu
2008 NAQT Northern California State	Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA	IS-76	4/27/2008	Gaius Stern	408-924-5529
2008 Collins Hill Aerie Invitational	Dorman High School, Roebuck, SC	DII SCT	5/3/2008	Scott Kim	scott_kim@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
First Annual Season Ender Tournament	Culver Academies, Culver, IN	IS-71A	5/10/2008	Eric Huff	huffej@spart6.org
2008 Midwest Championship	Chatham High School, Chatham, NJ	DII SCT	5/10/2008	Phil Blessman	blesmp@culver.org
Chatham Academic Tournament	White Plains H.S., White Plains, NY	IS-72	5/17/2008	Stephen Fineman	sfineman@chatham-nj.org
2008 NAQT New York State		IS-76	5/17/2008	Michael Zinsmeister	mzinsmeister@shp.org

Nationals Field Expanded!

Due to a record number of registrations received already, NAQT has decided to expand the field at its tenth annual High School National Championship from 160 to 176 teams. Registration for the event is still open. If your team has qualified and would like to attend, please register online at:

<http://www.naqt.com/hsnct/2008/registration.jsp>

If your team has not yet qualified but you are interested in applying for a "wildcard" spot in the field, please read the section about wildcard bids at:

<http://www.naqt.com/hsnct/qualification.html>

The field currently has teams from 27 states plus Washington, DC, Canada, and China. To see a complete list of teams who will be competing in Chicago, go to:

<http://www.naqt.com/hsnct/2008/field.html>

The weekend's events will begin with registration and practice rounds on the evening of Friday, May 23. There will also be time for students and coaches to socialize with other teams throughout the evening. The

preliminary rounds of competition begin on Saturday morning, and each team is guaranteed at least eight matches during the day.

Sunday will feature double-elimination playoffs for the teams that finished the preliminary rounds with a winning record. Scrimmage rounds will be available for teams that did not advance to the playoffs. By the end of the day, an overall champion as well as a small school champion will be crowned. NAQT also awards trophies to the top 25 All-Stars as well as the top five freshmen and top five sophomores based on individual performances during the preliminary rounds.

NAQT's High School National Championship is the largest and most prestigious tournament of its kind. Many schools return year after year, but we always enjoy welcoming new teams to the competition. Help NAQT meet its goal of having a national championship field with teams from all 50 states!

Also at www.naqt.com

You Gotta Know study guides <http://www.naqt.com/YouGottaKnow>

Hosting a tournament <http://www.naqt.com/host>

Free sample questions <http://www.naqt.com/sample>

You Gotta Know . . . These Mathematicians

These are the ten people that have come up most frequently in NAQT's questions as a result of their accomplishments in pure mathematics.

1. The work of **Isaac Newton** (1643-1727, English) in pure math includes generalizing the binomial theorem to non-integer exponents, doing the first rigorous manipulation with power series, and creating "Newton's method" for finding roots. He is best known, however, for a lengthy feud between British and Continental mathematicians over whether he or Gottfried Leibniz invented calculus (whose differential aspect Newton called "the method of fluxions"). It is now generally accepted that they both did, independently.
2. **Euclid** (c. 300 BC, Alexandrian Greek) is principally known for the *Elements*, a textbook on geometry and number theory, that was used for over 2,000 years and which grounds essentially all of what is taught in modern high school geometry classes. Euclid is known for his five postulates that define Euclidean (i.e., "normal") space, especially the fifth (the "parallel postulate") which can be broken to create spherical and hyperbolic geometries. He also proved the infinitude of prime numbers.
3. **Carl Friedrich Gauss** (1777-1855, German) is considered the "Prince of Mathematicians" for his extraordinary contributions to every major branch of mathematics. His *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae* systematized number theory and stated the fundamental theorem of arithmetic. He also proved the fundamental theorem of algebra, the law of quadratic reciprocity, and the prime number theorem. Gauss may be most famous for the (possibly apocryphal) story of intuiting the formula for the summation of an arithmetic series when given the busywork task of adding the first 100 positive integers by his primary school teacher.
4. **Archimedes** (287-212 BC, Syracusan Greek) is best known for his "Eureka moment" of using density considerations to determine the purity of a gold crown; nonetheless, he was the preeminent mathematician of ancient Greece. He found the ratios between the surface areas and volumes of a sphere and a circumscribed cylinder, accurately estimated pi, and presaged the summation of infinite series with his "method of exhaustion."
5. **Gottfried Leibniz** (1646-1716, German) is known for his independent invention of calculus and the ensuing priority dispute with Isaac Newton. Most modern calculus notation, including the integral sign and the use of d to indicate a differential, originated with Leibniz. He also invented binary numbers and did fundamental work in establishing Boolean algebra and symbolic logic.
6. **Pierre de Fermat** (1601-1665, French) is remembered for his contributions to number theory including his "little theorem" that a^p will be divisible by p if p is prime. He also studied Fermat primes (those of the form $2^{2^n}+1$) and stated his "Last Theorem" that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no solutions if x , y , and z are positive integers and n is a positive integer greater than 2. He and Blaise Pascal founded probability theory. In addition, he discovered methods for finding the maxima and minima of functions and the areas under polynomials that foreshadowed calculus and inspired Isaac Newton.
7. **Leonhard Euler** (1707-1783, Swiss) is known for his prolific output and the fact that he continued to produce seminal

results even after going blind. He invented graph theory with the Seven Bridges of Königsberg problem and introduced the modern notation for e , the square root of -1 (i), and trigonometric functions. Richard Feynman called his proof that $e^{i\pi} = -1$ "the most beautiful equation in mathematics" because it linked four of math's most important constants.

8. **Kurt Gödel** (1906-1978, Austrian) was a logician best known for his two incompleteness theorems proving that every formal system that was powerful enough to express ordinary arithmetic must necessarily contain statements that were true, but which could not be proved within the system itself.
9. **Andrew Wiles** (1953-present, British) is best known for proving the Taniyama-Shimura conjecture that all rational semi-stable elliptic curves were modular. This would normally be too abstruse to occur frequently in quiz bowl, but a corollary of that result established Fermat's Last Theorem.
10. **William Rowan Hamilton** (1805-1865, Irish) is known for extending the notion of complex numbers to four dimensions by inventing the quaternions, a non-commutative field with six square roots of -1 : $\pm i$, $\pm j$, and $\pm k$ with the property that $ij = k$, $jk = i$, and $ki = j$.

Who's the Team to Beat?

According to NAQT's recently launched rating system for high school teams, the answer is Wilmington Charter School A in Delaware, with Eden Prairie A in Minnesota just a few points behind.

This rating system is in its early stages of development and is intended to be fun and to spark discussion among players, coaches, and fans. These ratings are dynamic and will change as new data is added.

As of March 19, 2008, the top 20 teams with non-provisional ratings are:

1. Wilmington Charter School (Wilmington, DE)
2. Eden Prairie (Eden Prairie, MN)
3. Dorman A (Roebuck, SC)
4. Thomas Jefferson (Alexandria, VA)
5. Chaska (Chaska, MN)
6. Walt Whitman (Bethesda, MD)
7. James Island (Charleston, SC)
8. Dorman B (Roebuck, SC)
9. Wayzata (Plymouth, MN)
10. Santa Monica (Santa Monica, CA)

The success and accuracy of this ranking system is dependent on tournament hosts sending NAQT complete individual and team statistics for every tournament using NAQT questions. For more details about the rating system as well as complete rankings of over 1000 teams, please visit:

<http://www.naqt.com/stats>

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Offer expires May 15, 2008.

\$99 New High School Package

The quiz bowl competition season may be winding down, but NAQT's New High School Package is still available! This heavily discounted set of materials provides over 3000 questions at a variety of lengths and difficulty levels plus our popular art, music, and literature study guides at over 50% off the price of the individual components. For details, please go to:

<http://www.naqt.com/new-high-school-package.html>

As with any of our products, we are happy to provide a free sample prior to purchase. Just email orders@naqt.com with your request.

Sorry, no substitutions can be made within the New High School Package.

Goldfish National Championship

This spring, your team can compete on NAQT questions against teams from around the world without leaving the comfort of your school. On April 30, Culver Academies will "host" the First Annual Goldfish National Championship.

Teams will be e-mailed the same custom NAQT packet, and each team will play a match against its favorite goldfish. The coach reports the scores for each question and where the team buzzed for each tossup.

The entry fee is \$10 per team, and schools may enter multiple teams. The entry fee must be submitted by April 23. For details, email Culver Academies coach Phil Blessman at pblessman@yahoo.com, or go to:

<http://pblessman.googlepages.com/gfuct>

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