



Denver Knowledge Bowl League

Knowledge Bowl Overview

I started KB as a student when I was in high school and have coached for over a decade now. Lots of fun for the students and I've enjoyed being a coach as well. It helps fill a need for those kids that like this kind of thing! - Eric Howe, Knowledge Bowl Coach, Stargate High School

KB runs a fairly long season, with monthly tournaments starting in September and running through February at schools throughout the Denver-Boulder area.

Teams that do well at the February Regional tournament may qualify to attend the two-day state tournament at CSU in March. In February 2017 all but one of our region's schools qualified for the state tournament, the highest percentage in the state!

Each school is welcome to send one or more teams of students to each tournament. Most schools attend all tournaments but there is no requirement to do so.

Each team typically consists of 4-6 students, with four students competing at a time and any alternates rotating in and out throughout the day. Fewer than four students can make up a team in a pinch.

Tournaments consist of five rounds: One written multiple choice round and four oral rounds. All teams participate in all rounds. They are held on Saturdays and usually run from 8:30am-1pm ish.

Denver Knowledge Bowl League Operations

Most league schools host one tournament each. It costs about \$80 for a set of competition questions. Other costs depend on your school. For example, my admin doesn't charge us a janitorial fee, so our only cost for the year is the set of questions and we have the kids bring in a few snacks for our tournament.

Schools that host a tournament or are new are able to attend all of the other tournaments at no cost. That makes the fees for the year really low!

Coaches are expected to read questions during the tournaments but that's usually waived for first year schools to allow them time to learn how things go.

Here's a link to our [tournament schedule](#). Not all schools are hosting a tournament, so you can expect to see other schools attend that aren't on the tournament list including a few new schools joining this year.

We'd like to make your first year easy! Here's what you need to know as a first year coach/team:

- You can participate in the Denver league tournaments for free the first year; no obligation to host a tournament the first year.
- You likely won't have to serve as a question reader at tournaments your first year.



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- You probably would need/want to buy a buzzer system and they are not inexpensive. A few schools forgo buying buzzers the first year or wait until they've got a couple of tournaments under their belt but that makes it harder to practice.
- There are numerous sources for questions. I'm happy to hook you up with a lot of free questions used in previous tournaments to get you started. You will probably want to invest in a question database that most schools purchase. It's a one-time deal that gets you a couple hundred thousand questions produced by the same maker as the tournament questions and can be used over and over in your practices. The best source for questions for new programs is [Academic Hallmarks](#). They have a database that you can buy once and it will set you up for practice for many, many years.
- There is a State KB website. It's a bit cluttered but has lots of info (tournament rules, etc.) can be found at <https://www.coloradokb.org/>.
- If your school qualifies to attend the state tournament, that's beyond our region and any costs from that are your own. Entry fee for that sounds a bit pricey at \$175 but the two-day event but is a super fun event with a minimum of eight rounds for each school. The excitement of competing against 60 of the best schools in state makes it worth it!

Here are the next steps if you are interested in starting a team:

1. Contact our Regional Director, Lexi Hoffman (alexis.hoffmann@adams12.org). She's the Knowledge Bowl coach at Horizon High School and will make sure that you get put on the email distribution list.
2. Order a buzzer set, preferably before you leave for the summer! Practices without buzzers are much less exciting and helpful.
 - a. Most schools use the Quiz Wizard II model (<http://c-e-d-inc.com/products.htm>). I would recommend that you buy the 4 team model instead of the 3 team model. That allows you to have more kids on the buzzers during practice and as your program grows you'll appreciate that.
 - b. Don't bother buying the optional carrying case. It's expensive and you'd be better off buying a plastic storage crate from Walmart. Besides, when several schools have the same exact case, mix-ups are prone to happen.
3. Order the question database for use in practices.
 - a. Check out <https://www.greatauk.com/compresources.html> for more info. I would recommend that you buy the entire database . It includes 200,000+ questions and you wouldn't need to buy any more practice questions.
 - b. There are other sources for questions but the link I provided is to the company that creates questions for the Denver and State tournaments.
 - c. Start practices soon in order to give your students some practice time! Most schools do once a week for an hour after school or during a lunch or activities period.
 - d. Check out this page on the State KB site for info on how meets are run: <https://www.coloradokb.org/meet-conduct>.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have.

If you know of other schools that might be interested, please pass this info along to them.



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