



[2012-2013] Rules

Hosted by
Science Infinity (<http://scienceinfinity.org/>) and Chief Kanim Middle School
(<http://ckms.svsd410.org/>)

Sponsored by
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General Rules

1. Participation in the Washington Challenge competition is open to all grade [5-8] students regardless of race, religion, creed, gender, or type of school one attends. However, students may NOT compete in a Challenge competition in which his/her parent, legal guardian, or other family member is a Challenge competition judge or Organizer.

Additionally, students participating in the competition must qualify under the following requirements:

- They must not have passed beyond the 8th grade on or before April 1, 2013.
- They must not reach the age of 15 on or before September 1, 2013.
- The student participant, their parent/guardian, or school official acting on the participant's behalf, must not have declared to another entity an academic classification above 8th grade for any purpose, including high school graduation equivalency or proficiency examinations and/or examinations such as the PSAT, SAT, or ACT.
- They must enter State and National Challenge competitions, as applicable, in the same Challenge cycle in which they qualified from their Local Challenge competition.

- They must not have been disqualified at any level of the Challenge competition in the same academic year as the National Challenge competition in which they are to compete.
- They must not have been declared the champion of any previous National Challenge competition.
- They must not have participated in the Challenge program for more than four years.

Any participant who is not in compliance with any of the eligibility requirements noted above may be disqualified by CEF prior to or during any competition. In addition, any participant found to have not been in compliance with the eligibility requirements or who has been disqualified for any other reason may be required to forfeit the prizes, title, and other benefits awarded to the participant as a result of his/her participation in the Challenge.

2. To prepare for the Challenge, students should begin by reviewing the study materials offered on the Challenge Study Materials page of CEF's website at <http://www.chemed.org/ybtc/challenge/study.aspx> (navigation from CEF Homepage: *You Be The Chemist* → Challenge → Study Materials), including the periodic table handouts. Students should not only review the information on the periodic tables but also be familiar with how to use the Periodic Table to determine additional information about an element or set of elements.

Challenge competition questions are based on an overall understanding of chemistry concepts and the relationships among various chemistry concepts. Please note: Questions are largely derived from information contained in CEF's study materials but are not limited solely to this information. Participants are encouraged to seek additional examples and explanations of chemistry concepts from outside resources as questions often require students to connect various concepts and apply their knowledge of chemistry to both familiar and unfamiliar situations.

3. **All judges' decisions are final.**
 4. The competition will take the form of Rounds. Individual questions shall not appear more than once in a competition. As the participants answer a question, selecting the best answer, the judges (using the electronic scoring system when applicable) will record correct and incorrect answers for each participant.
 5. At the end of each Round, the judges (using the electronic scoring system when applicable) will tally the number of correct and incorrect answers from each participant. The participant(s) determined to have the least number of correct answers will be eliminated from the competition.
- * Eliminations and advancement in the competition will follow these guidelines unless otherwise determined as a result of tie scores.
6. If any number of participants has the same lowest number of correct answers at the end of a Round (that would eliminate more than the designated number of participants for that Round), a tie-breaker and, if necessary, a Lightning Round will be used for those students to determine who is eliminated. If none of the participants in the competition during any Round answer a question correctly or none answer incorrectly, all participants will be entered into a tie-breaker in the form of a total score analysis, followed by a Lightning Round.

For example: At the end of [Introductory Round], if [#] participants answered 2 questions incorrectly and the other [#] participants answered only 1 question incorrectly (and no initial tie-breaker is applicable), the [#] participants that answered 2 questions incorrectly shall enter a Lightning Round to determine which [#] participants will be eliminated. Likewise, if one participant answered 1 question incorrectly and the other [#] participants answered all questions correctly (none incorrect); the participant that answered 1 question incorrectly will be eliminated from that Round. The remaining [#] participants will enter a Lightning Round to determine which additional participant(s) will be eliminated in that Round.

7. The selected judges for the Challenge shall be in complete control of the competition. If there are any irregularities during the competition, the judges will rule on the result and continuation of the competition based on these Rules and Format accounting for any mitigating or collateral circumstances. Appeals can only be made by the student participant(s) immediately following the conclusion of a question and prior to the announcement of eliminations.
8. The moderator will state each question and the corresponding multiple-choice answers once. Questions will not be repeated during any Round which utilizes the electronic system. Participants may only ask the moderator to repeat a question during the verbal format portion of the competition. In addition, each individual question may only be repeated once. For example, after the moderator reads a question one time, any participant may request that the moderator repeat the question. After the question has been repeated, the moderator will not read that question a third time.
9. Participants must be present throughout the entire competition to receive his/her prizes. If extenuating circumstances prevent a participant from being present for a particular portion of the competition and related events, the Organizer should be notified immediately. Upon notifying the Organizer, the awarding of prizes to that participant will be at the discretion of the Organizers, sponsors, and event officials.

Conduct

1. The Challenge is a competitive event focusing on the outstanding efforts of its participants. Participants should be treated with the utmost respect throughout the event.
2. Participants are expected to comply with the rules of conduct established in these 2012-2013 Washington Rules & Format documents, the Participant Agreement, and with any rules or codes of conduct stated verbally by the Local Challenge Organizers and competition officials. Participants are expected to act with integrity and courtesy throughout the event.
 - The competition will follow the format as detailed in the [2012-2013] Washington Challenge Format document. Participants are expected to comply with this format.
 - Participants should not talk to one another regarding competition content while the competition is in progress or during competition breaks.
 - Cell phones and other electronic devices are **not** permitted to be in their possession during the competition, including competition breaks.

- Organizers and other Challenge officials and agents will be observing participant behavior throughout the competition. Any behavior deemed to be distracting, questionable, or dishonest is grounds for disqualification from all levels of the Challenge.
 - If eliminated, participants should be courteous to the participants remaining in the competition and sit quietly as an audience member for the remainder of the competition.
 - Study materials and related reference materials, including periodic tables, are not permitted at the competition venue. Judges will have the relevant study materials in the event that they need to reference them during the competition. Any participant seen with any study materials or related reference materials at the competition venue may be disqualified from the competition.
 - Participants may use any provided scrap paper for computation purposes only. Any participant seen to be using scrap paper in an inappropriate manner may be disqualified from the competition based on a determination of the competition judges and officials. Scrap paper will be collected at the end of each round.
 - Participants may use the competition version of the periodic table, as applicable, when designated and for those questions ONLY.
3. All audience members are expected to comply with the rules of conduct established in these rules & format documents. Audience members are expected to act with integrity and courtesy throughout the event.
- Once the competition begins, participants are solely responsible for addressing their questions and concerns directly to the judges. At no point are audience members permitted to approach the judges (during the competition or at any event associated with the competition after its conclusion).
 - Audio and/or video recording is not permitted; however, photographs are permitted. Taking pictures of competition questions is strictly prohibited.
 - Writing materials, such as pens, notepads, etc., and electronic devices are NOT permitted to be used in the competition room (with the exception of coloring materials or silent electronic games for young children). All such materials should be turned off and put away once in the competition room.
 - Audience behavior will be observed throughout the competition. Any audience member deemed to be exhibiting behavior that is distracting, questionable, or dishonest will be asked to leave the competition. Any behavior that is deemed to be questionable or perceived as giving an unfair advantage to a particular participant is grounds for disqualification of that participant. The individual exhibiting such behavior and the participant that the individual is accompanying may be asked to leave the competition room and may be subsequently disqualified from the competition.
 - All study materials and related reference materials, including periodic tables, are not permitted at the competition venue. Any audience member seen with any study materials after the competition begins will be asked to leave the competition room and the participant that the individual is accompanying may be subsequently disqualified from the competition.

4. Again, the competition is for the participants, and proper, courteous behavior is expected (i.e., turn off cell phones, no talking, etc.). If audience members must make a phone call, use the restroom, etc., they should wait until the end of a competition Round to enter or exit the competition room. If it is necessary for an audience member to leave the competition room during a Round, they should leave the competition room quietly so as not to disrupt the competition or distract the participants.

Appeals

1. Participants MUST follow the proper appeal process for the competition.
2. If a participant feels his/her electronic device is not working properly, he/she should raise his/her hand IMMEDIATELY to notify the judges. Judges will make the necessary adjustments, as they deem appropriate, to the current Round and that current Round only, for a faulty device.
3. If a participant feels a need to appeal a question or answer during a particular competition Round, he/she must appeal to the judge(s) immediately following that Round and prior to the announcement of any eliminations or prior to the start of the next Round, whichever occurs first.
 - At the end of the Round in which the question arises, participants should raise their hand and wait to be acknowledged by the judge(s).
 - Once acknowledged, the participant should individually approach the judge(s) and address them privately. If necessary, the judge(s) will call a short break to review the appeal.
 - [The judge or a majority decision by the panel of judges] will decide on the outcome of any appeal. All judges' decisions are final.

If a participant feels a need to appeal a question or answer during a Round that uses a single-question, immediate elimination format (in which participant scores are determined after each individual question), he/she must appeal to the judge(s) immediately following that question and prior to the announcement of any eliminations, again initiating the appeal by raising his/her hand immediately after the answer is revealed.

4. Appeals must be made individually and directly to the judges. Participants may not consult any other individual (participant, parent, etc.) prior to making their appeal.
5. Appeals must be made before a participant leaves his/her seat for any reason. If participants leave their competition seats for a break or elimination, their appeal will not be heard by the judge(s) upon their return. Likewise, if the next Round begins (or next question is revealed in a single-question, immediate elimination Round) before the participant has appealed to the judge(s), the appeal will not be heard and no changes will be made.
6. The judge(s) will have a copy of relevant study and reference materials to review in making their decision.
7. The result of each appeal will be reported privately to the participant making the appeal. In addition, the results of all appeals made following a Round will be announced to the audience by the judges prior to the start of the next Round.

8. Audience members, including parents, chaperones, and teachers, are **not** permitted to appeal to, approach, or address the judges at any point during the competition or after the competition has concluded (regarding an appeal or any competition determination). Anyone other than a participant who attempts to appeal to, approach, or address the judges will be asked to leave the competition room. Audience members having questions or concerns about Local Challenge competitions may note their concerns to the Organizer.
9. **Again, all judges' decisions are final.**

Please note: The Organizers reserve the right to alter the competition format as necessary in the event of any technological difficulties, force majeure, or any other unforeseen circumstances that would inhibit the continuation of the competition as detailed in the Washington Challenge rules and format. Any adjustments will be noted to the participants prior to the competition or prior to the continuation of the competition in the event that the disturbance occurs during the competition.

