

Bible Quizzing Rule Book

Bible Quizzing is a Christian sport in which teams of participants compete on Bible memorization in a context that requires a combination of speed, accuracy, and strategy and a culture that inspires collaboration, fellowship, and mutual encouragement. Bible Quizzing competitions, called meets, consist of a series of quizzes. Meets are grouped into quiz seasons, which typically run from late summer or early fall through late spring or early summer.

This is the official rule book for Bible Quizzing, which represents what will be followed at the annual *International Bible Quizzing* (IBQ) championship meet at the end of a quiz season. It is also a recommendational document for Quizzing districts and any other organizations interested in Bible Quizzing. These districts and other organizations retain the right to set and enforce their own rules using whatever mechanisms they deem most appropriate.

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1. Material and Questions

Bible Quizzing meets consist of a series of quizzes, which themselves consist of a series of questions. Questions are written based on a quiz season's material. Material refers to the Scriptural scope of content set for each season. The Bible edition used is the *New International Version* (NIV) 2011 edition of the Bible. There is an 8-season rotation of material. 4 are defined as "Narrative" and 4 are defined as "Epistle" in terms of a material's style.

1.1. Material Rotation Schedule

| Season | Material Scope References | Style |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| 2020-2021 | Matthew 1:18-25, 2-12, 14-22, 26-28 | Narrative |
| 2021-2022 | Romans, James | Epistle |
| 2022-2023 | Acts 1-20 | Narrative |
| 2023-2024 | Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians | Epistle |
| 2024-2025 | Luke 1-3:23, 9-11, 13-19, 21-24 | Narrative |
| 2025-2026 | 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians | Epistle |
| 2026-2027 | John | Narrative |
| 2027-2028 | Hebrews, 1 Peter, 2 Peter | Epistle |

1.1.1. Interrogative Words

Interrogative words are the single interrogative word that must be inserted at either the beginning or the end of every question text requiring such. Question type groups that require interrogative words are:

- Interrogative
- Multiple Answer
- Reference

The exhaustive list of interrogative words is:

- Who
- Whom
- Whose
- What
- Why
- Where
- When
- Which
- How

1.1.2. Context

Context is a range of verses from the question's reference. Context is a concept primarily related to the answering of questions, but it needs to be considered when writing questions from the material. By default, context is limited to 5 verses before or after the reference; however, some question types have a different context, which is defined in the question type.

1.2. Question Writing

1.2.1. Preparation of Questions

All questions must contain verbatim material.

The only exception to this is Situation type question quotations, which could potentially involve a single quotation, broken up by non-quotation words. This would result in the Situation quotation being written without the non-quotation words in the middle of the 2 quotations.

On some question types, the addition of a single, approved, interrogative word at the very beginning or very end is required.

1.2.2. Question Types

1.2.2.1. Interrogative (INT)

Interrogative questions, also called "standard" questions or "regular" questions or "normal" questions:

- Must have exactly 1 inserted interrogative word at the very beginning of the question or the very end of the question
- Must have a single answer
- Must include a unique word or a 2 or 3-word unique phrase within the 1st 5 words of the question

1.2.2.2. Multiple Answer (MA)

- Must meet all the requirements of an INT except for the single answer requirement
- Must have more than 1 answer
 - The clarification of a single answer does not meet the above requirement
 - The identification of a single pronoun does not meet the above requirement
 - The identification of a plural pronoun does meet the above requirement

In addition, an MA question is invalid if 1 of the listed answers to the multiple answer's questions is a "negative" answer. A "negative" answer is an answer used to contrast another answer or an answer that does not answer the question, such as an answer that begins with the words or similar words to "not" or "neither".

1.2.2.3. Reference

Reference question type group questions are used to distinguish between exact duplicate words or phrases from the material. The entire reference question is part of the required question and answer.

If a quizzer needs to provide the reference question, the provided reference question must:

- Be of the exact same question type (CR, CVR, MACR, MACVR, Q, Q2V, etc.) as the written question
- Have content and wording similar to the content and wording of the written question
- Have the determining word or phrase of the written question
- Have the interrogative word used not be a factor when deciding the valid type of a reference question

1.2.2.3.1. Chapter Verse Reference (CVR)

- Must have a single answer
- The question must contain a word or phrase that exists in more than 1 verse in the same chapter
- Context is the single verse

The question text should be in the form:

According to [book name], chapter [chapter number], verse [verse number], [remainder of question text]

1.2.2.3.2. Chapter Reference (CR)

- Must have a single answer
- Must contain a word or phrase that exists more than once in the material and only once in the chapter

The question text should be in the form:

According to [book name], chapter [chapter number], [remainder of question text]

1.2.2.3.3. Multiple Answer Chapter Verse Reference (MACVR)

- Must meet all the requirements of a CVR except the single answer requirement
- Must also meet all the requirements of a MA except the unique word or phrase requirement

1.2.2.3.4. Multiple Answer Chapter Reference (MACR)

- Must meet all the requirements of a CR except the single answer requirement
- Must also meet all the requirements of a MA except the unique word or phrase requirement

1.2.2.4. Quote/Finish

Quote and Finish questions must be quoted word-perfect. Quizzers may go back and correct their answers if done in the question answer duration time period. The quizzer will be required to make 1 full correct rotation; however, the quizzer can be called correct if they have made a mistake only in 1 area of the verse and correct the mistake, making it abundantly clear to the quizmaster and answer judge that they know where their mistake was and what the corrected words are.

Context is defined as the required verse, which is defined as the 1 or 2 verse range of the question, based on the question type.

1.2.2.4.1. Quote (Q)

- Must be 1 verse
- The entire reference is part of the question and therefore required in the response if not fully spoken by the quizmaster

The question text should be in the form:

|| Quote [book name], chapter [chapter number], verse [verse number].

1.2.2.4.2. Quote 2 Verses (Q2V)

Q2V is used when a verse is not strong enough on its own and needs another verse to explain it or can be used when 2 verses combined to form an even stronger thought.

- Must be 2 consecutive verses
- The entire 2-verse reference range is part of the question and therefore required in the response if not fully spoken by the quizmaster

The question text should be in the form:

|| Quote [book name], chapter [chapter number], verses [verse numbers].

1.2.2.4.3. Finish

Finish questions have question text consisting of the 1st 5 words of material starting based on the question type. These 1st 5 words must be unique to all Finish questions of the exact same type; for example, FTV compared to all FTVs, FT to all FTs, F2V to all F2Vs, FTN to all FTNs.

1.2.2.4.4. Finish the Verse (FTV)

- Begins at the beginning of a single verse and finishes at the end of that verse

1.2.2.4.5. Finish This (FT)

- Begins in the middle of a verse and finishes at the end of the verse
- Must start at the beginning of a sentence or the beginning of a quotation

1.2.2.4.6. Finish 2 Verses (F2V)

- Begins at the beginning of a verse and continues to the end of the next verse
- Used when a verse is not strong enough on its own and needs another verse to explain it or can be used when 2 verses combined, form an even stronger thought

1.2.2.4.7. Finish This and the Next (FTN)

- Begins in the middle of a verse and finishes at the end of the next verse
- Must start at the beginning of a sentence or the beginning of a quotation
- Used when part of a verse is not strong enough on its own and needs another verse (or part of a verse) to explain it or when 2 verses combined form an even stronger thought

1.2.2.5. Situation (SIT)

- Used only in the quiz season where the material type is narrative
- The question text contains 2 parts:
 - Up to 3 questions regarding the Situation of the quotation from the following interrogatives:
 - Who said it
 - To whom
 - How
 - Why
 - When
 - Where
 - About whom
 - Quotation
 - Must be a direct quotation from the material by a person or an entity
 - The quotation must not exceed 2 consecutive verses
 - The 1st 5 words must be unique to all quotations
 - The quizzer is not required to repeat the quotation word-perfect but must be substantially close without leaving out key components of the quotation
 - Must start at the beginning of a quotation or the beginning of a sentence within the quotation; when a Situation question comes from a quotation that runs for more than 2 verses, the beginning of the Situation question must start within the 1st 2 verses of the quotation

If the quotation is split-up by non-quotation words, the quotation will be read without the non-quotation words. A Situation question can combine 2 separate quotations as long as no words are added and the 2 quotes flow easily from 1 to another. The quotation must be written excluding any non-quotation words in the middle of the quotations.

The answer to the Situation question must be in context.

1.2.3. Invalid Questions

Questions must be declared invalid by the quizmaster or answer judge(s) if:

- The answer requires interpretation by the quizzer
- The question is ambiguous, tricky, or misleading
- The question is multiple-choice
- If the question is not answered

When a question is deemed invalid and thrown out, it must be replaced with the exact same type of question. For example, an MACVR must be replaced with an MACVR, not any multiple-answer reference question.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1. Team Organization

A team can consist of up to 5 quizzers. Teams can have up to 4 quizzers seated in a quiz at any given time.

2.1.1. Captains

Scorekeepers must be notified which quizzer is the captain and which is co-captain before the quizzers take their seats to begin the quiz. The captain and co-captain may change during a given competition but not during a quiz.

Only the captain or co-captain may challenge a decision or respond to a challenge. If both the captain and co-captain have erred-out, another quizzer can be designated by the coach to respond to or initiate challenges.

2.2. Quiz Officials

No comment other than "correct" or "incorrect" need be announced by the quiz officials when announcing making a ruling; however, at the discretion of the *quizmaster* (QM) and *answer judge* (AJ), or at the request of the captain, additional information may be given.

If the additional information regarding the ruling is provided at the discretion of the QM/AJ and not at the request of the captain, this is not considered an explanation of a ruling, which would invalidate a challenge or protest.

If the captain requests additional information regarding the ruling, this is considered an explanation of a ruling and invalidates a challenge or protest. Before replying to a request for an explanation, the QM must ask all teams if they wish to challenge.

All conferring between quizmaster and answer judge(s) shall be done privately.

2.2.1. Quizmasters (QM)

The quizmaster must:

- Maintain a position such that all currently seated quizzers are able to view the quizmaster's face
- Speak in such a way as to be understood by all quizzers
- Rule immediately upon an obviously correct or incorrect answer if there is no indication from the answer judge to the contrary

When a quizzer's response contains a required completion of the question and that completion be different than the written question, the quizmaster will discuss it with the answer judge. If the quizzer gives a reference question that is different than the written question, the quizmaster and answer judge must ensure that the reference question given is the exact same type as the written question.

The quizmaster should consult with the answer judge(s) at any time they feel is necessary, provided it does not infringe upon the quizzer's question answer duration period.

2.2.1.1. Quizmaster Prompts

During the question answer duration period, the quizmaster will use only the following prompts.

2.2.1.1.1. Pronoun Clarification

If a quizzer has provided all the information in the answer, except the identification of a pronoun present which is part of the answer text, the quizmaster will ask the quizzer to identify the specific pronoun. For example: "Can you identify 'He'?" or "Can you identify 'They'?"

The quizmaster is not allowed to say anything other than what the quizzer has already said when asking for the identification. A pronoun may need to be identified only if the antecedent is in context.

Once the quizzer has completed all information in the answer, the quizmaster will prompt the quizzer to identify the specific pronoun, even if the quizzer has not yet completed all information in the question.

2.2.1.1.2. Reference Questions

On a Reference type question, if the quizzer has given all the information in both the question and the answer and the complete question was not read, the quizmaster will ask, "What is your question?"

2.2.1.1.3. Answer Correction

On a Quote/Finish type question, once the quizzer has quoted to the end of the required verse or verses, if the quote is not yet word-perfect, the quizmaster will say, "Again." This will occur as often as needed until the quizzer quotes the verse perfectly or the question answer duration period expires. The quizmaster is not allowed to say "again" until the quizzer has come to the end of the verse, each time through, as this would give the quizzer information about where their mistake was made.

For all other question types, once all of the information in both the question and answer has been given, but something needs to be fixed, the quizmaster will say "Again".

2.2.1.1.4. Quote is Complete

On a Situation type question, when the quizzer has completed the quotation, the quizmaster will say, "Quote is complete."

2.2.1.1.5. Appending an Answer

On an INT or MA Question, if all the information in the answer text has been given but the quizzer is missing information in the question text, the quizmaster will say "More".

On a Situation question, because the quotation is part of the question, the quizmaster will say "More" when required information from the quotation is missing.

On a Quote or Reference question, if either the chapter or verse number were not completely finished when the quizzer jumped, the quizmaster will say "More".

2.2.2. Answer Judges (AJ)

When an answer given is in question, the answer judge will determine the accuracy of its content and make a ruling recommendation to the quizmaster.

Answer judges will also:

- Watch the quizmaster's reading for accuracy
- Ensure the quizzer is recognized by the quizmaster when their light comes on

2.2.3. Scorekeepers (SK)

The scorekeeper will:

- Tally and immediately announce when a quizzer has erred-out, quizzed-out, or fouled-out
- Keep a record of all timeouts
- Keep a record of the number of questions a substitute quizzer has remained out to determine eligibility for re-substitution
- Either read the score or have the score ready to be read at the beginning of timeouts when there is no scoreboard
- Have the scoresheets signed by the coaches at the conclusion of each quiz and report to the statistician

2.2.4. Statisticians (ST)

The statistician will be responsible for:

- Keeping individual quizzers' scores
- Keeping individual teams' scores

3. Quiz Process

3.1. Questions

There will be no duplicate questions in a single quiz.

3.1.1. Toss-Up Questions

When 3 teams are participating in a question and 1 team errs, the next question will be a toss-up question for the 2 teams that did not err on the previous question. The team that erred is ineligible to jump on the toss-up question.

If only 2 teams were participating in a question and 1 team errs, the next question will be a bonus question, not a toss-up question. If only 1 team was participating in a question, it must have been a bonus question. As such, any outcome of the bonus question results in all 3 teams participating in the next question.

3.1.2. Bonus Questions

If only 2 teams are participating in a question and 1 team errs, the next question will be an assigned bonus question for the team that did not err. An assigned bonus question is awarded to the corresponding chair of the chair that erred on the toss-up.

3.1.3. Question Reading Structure

A Quizmaster must introduce and read each question type in a specific, multipart way:

1. Question Introduction

- State the full question number and type
 - | "Question number [question number] is a [type] question."
- Include whether it's a toss-up or bonus question
 - | "It is a ["toss-up" or "bonus"] for [team(s)]."
- For Situation questions only, include the question's interrogatives
 - | "I need to know [Situation question interrogatives]."

2. Call the Question

- | "Question number [question number], question:"

3. Question text or remainder of question text

A quizmaster may repeat or repeat as a paraphrase any component of the question introduction for additional clarity.

3.2. Types of Quizzes

There are 3 primary types of quizzes and 2 related overtime components of quizzes.

3.2.1. 3-Team 20-Question Quiz

There will be 20 numeric questions in a quiz, excluding any overtime questions.

A toss-up question is the result of an error by 1 team. The 2 remaining teams will have the opportunity to jump, but the team making the error is ineligible for that question. If question 1 to 15 is erred, the next question number will be a toss-up question. If question 16-20 is erred, and if 3 teams were participating on 16, the toss-up question will be question 16A.

Regarding bonus questions:

- If toss-up question 2 through 15 is erred, then the next question number is a bonus question
- If question 16 is a toss-up question and is erred, 16A is a bonus question
- If 16A through 20A is a toss-up and is erred, then 16B through 20B is a bonus question

Error points begin at question 17.

3.2.2. 2-Team 15-Question Tie-Breaker Quiz

A 2-team 15-question tie-breaker quiz operates much like a 3-team 20-question quiz except:

- There will be 15 numeric questions in a quiz
- If an error occurs on questions 1 through 11, the next question number is a 20-point bonus question
- If questions 12 through 15 are erred, the bonus question will remain on the same question number and will not be counted in the basic 15 questions; both teams must jump on questions 13 through 15
- All bonus questions up to and including 12B are worth 20 points
- All bonus questions from 13 to the end of the quiz are worth 10 points
- Error points begin at question 13
- A quiz-out is 3 correct questions

3.2.3. 2-Team 20-Question Quiz

A 2-team 20-question quiz operates much like a 3-team 20-question quiz except:

- All questions have a value of 20 points when 2 teams are eligible
- If questions 1-15 are erred, the next question will be a bonus question
- If questions 16-20 are erred, 16A-20A will be a bonus question
- All bonus questions throughout the whole quiz are 10 points

3.3. Overtime

Overtime occurs if a quiz ends in a tie and the team placements (1st, 2nd, 3rd) matter.

- Additional units of 3 overtime questions each will be used until the tie is broken
- 2-team rules will apply in overtime if only 2 teams are involved
- All the numeric question will be of a different question type

3.4. Question Type Distribution

In the below table, any minimum or maximum variation between material seasons is indicated in a **Narrative/Epistle** format.

| Type Group | Minimum | Maximum | Question Types |
|-----------------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| Interrogative | 8/9 | 14/16 | INT |
| Multiple Answer | 1 | 2 | MA |
| Reference | 3 | 6/7 | CR, CVR, MACR, MACVR |
| Quote | 2/3 | 3/4 | Q, Q2V |
| Finish | 3 | 4 | FT, FTN, FTV, F2V |
| Situation | 2/0 | 4/0 | SIT |

For a given Question Type:

- The minimum number of questions must be asked in question numerics 1-20, thus excluding any alphanumeric question numbers
- The maximum number of questions must not be exceeded in all "non-overtime" questions. this includes both numeric-only and alphanumeric question numbers

For 15-question quizzes, prepare quizzes as normal for 20-question quizzes, but the quizmaster should conclude the quiz when appropriate for the rule of a 15-question quiz.

3.5. Platform Protocol

- Quizzers will be seated facing the audience and quizmaster.
- The feet of the quizzers are to be on the floor while jumping.
- A line-up card showing the seating order of each quizzer should be given to the quizmaster or scorekeeper before the start of each quiz.
- No verbal or non-verbal communication is permitted between quizzers, coaches, or the audience from the time the quizmaster introduces the question type until points have been awarded.
- Only a coach from a team presently participating in the quiz or the meet director may confer with the officials.
- Coaches may have quiz material(s) on the platform during a timeout or prior to a quiz.
- Quizzers will not touch the officials' table.
- Quiz rooms will use jump measuring equipment to prevent ties.
- Push-button quizzing can be provided if needed by physically disabled quizzers.

3.6. Jumping

- Quizzers have 5 seconds in which to jump after the question is completed.
- If a quizzer's light comes on after a question has been called and before the question has discernibly begun, a foul will be called.
- If a quizzer's light comes on after the quizmaster has discernibly begun reading the question, this will be considered a valid jump, and the quizzer will be given an opportunity to answer.
- The 1st quizzer to rise and trigger their light, provided there has been no foul, will be awarded the jump.
- If in the judgment of the officials, a deliberate attempt is made to forfeit a question, an error will be charged, and 10 points deducted from the team score. The next question will be the same question number.

3.7. Timeliness

Except for the exception below:

- Quizzes will start at the scheduled or announced time.
- Any team that is late does not receive the starting 20 points awarded for being on time.
- Any team more than 10 minutes late forfeits the quiz.

The exception to the above is if the late team was late due to quizzing in another location which is running late, they are not required to forfeit the quiz or lose 20 points.

If an individual quizzer is late, the quiz will start on time. The coach has the option to put the late quizzer in during a timeout, but the team will forfeit the 20 points the team starts with. The coach also has the option to keep the quizzer out of the quiz and keep the 20 points but must notify the quizmaster at the beginning of the quiz of their decision.

4. Quiz Events

4.1. Answer Duration

Prior to a quizzer's answer being correct or incorrect, quizzers may have up to 30 seconds to provide their answer.

4.2. Rulings

4.2.1. Context Application

On all question types, a quizzer cannot automatically be ruled out of context by a single word, even if it is a unique word. Rather, the quizzer must say a complete thought or phrase that conclusively puts them out of context.

4.2.2. Deity Rule

The correct person of the deity must be given. The quizzer may not move between persons of the deity when answering. Giving the name of a deity that is not correct is considered giving incorrect information.

If a quizzer refers to any person of the deity as either "God" or "Lord", these must be clarified by the quizzer within the question answer duration period when the text requires a more specific answer.

"Jesus" and "Christ" are interchangeable (but refer to the person of the Son) and the quizzer will be called correct.

If a pronoun is used in the text to name the deity, any of the names for that person of the deity within context may be considered an acceptable answer when clarifying. If the pronoun naming the deity is identified by the quizzer using a name that correctly identifies the deity, but with an identification that is out of context, the quizzer will be considered to have not stayed in context.

When there is a special name of the deity given in the text, the special name must be given in the quizzer's answer. If the quizzer states any other special names which are not in context, the quizzer will be considered to have not stayed in context, even if they refer to the same person of the deity.

When a quizzer gives other names for the same person of the deity, used within context, these should be allowed to be clarified within the question answer duration period when a more specific answer is needed.

4.2.3. Correct

The quizzer's response is correct when:

- It fulfills all requirements specific to the question type
- It contains the information requested
- The quizzer stays in context
- Mispronounced names are still recognizable as the answer

If the quizmaster did not complete the reading of the question, the quizzer's answer must include the information in the remainder of the question as well as the answer. The quizzer's answer must include all unique words in both the question and the answer.

Only the 1st response of the quizzer will be considered; however, if the response by the quizzer is in context and is not incorrect, the quizzer will be allowed their full question answer duration period to satisfy all requirements of a correct response.

A quizzed-out quizzer may only jump on Bonus questions.

4.2.4. Incorrect

The quizzer's response is incorrect when:

- Incorrect information has been given
- The information given within the time limit is incomplete
- The response does not fulfill all requirements specific to the question type

An err-out eliminates that quizzer from the quiz. The quizzer must leave the platform immediately.

4.3. Challenges

Challenges exist so quizzers can contest rulings made by quiz officials. The team captain or co-captain may challenge if:

- There is reason to believe the quiz officials have applied the rule book incorrectly
- The quizmaster mispronounced a word
- The question is invalid

A challenge must be made at the time of the quizmaster's decision and before the next question's type is made known. If a timeout is called immediately after a ruling, and a quizzer stands to challenge, the challenge may be conducted prior to the timeout.

No conferring is allowed between the quizzer challenging and anyone else. Conferring with anyone else prior to a challenge will result in:

- The challenge being disallowed
- A foul being awarded to the quizzer

Once a team has requested an explanation of a ruling, and that explanation has been given, all teams lose the right to challenge. If an explanation of a ruling is requested, the quizmaster will ask if any team wants to challenge.

The result of a challenge may not be challenged.

If the challenge is accepted:

- Points or error points that reflect the new ruling of the judge will be recorded.
- A new question of the same number will be given if the question is ruled illegal.

When a challenge is made, the quizmaster must give each team's captain or co-captain an opportunity to speak to the challenge before making a ruling on the challenge. Whichever team is being challenged against will have the right to speak last.

4.4. Protests

Coaches, including assistant coaches, of the teams participating in a quiz may place the quiz under protest under the following conditions:

- When a coach feels a logistical rule has been broken by the quiz officials
- When a coach feels a ruling on a challenge is incorrect

The protest must apply to the question or ruling that just occurred. The protest must be placed before the next question's type is made known. If a protest is launched after question number 20 is completed it must be done immediately after the ruling is announced.

The coach may only confer with their assistant coach and substitute quizzer, before protesting.

The quiz officials and quiz team coaches will meet privately and attempt to come to an agreement. If no agreement is reached within 10 minutes, the meet director will arbitrate and determine the just solution.

4.5. Fouls

A foul is a penalty called by a quiz official against a quizzer or team for conduct that breaks the text or spirit of the rules.

- Fouls may be called by any quiz official actively involved in the current quiz.
- A foul must be called before the quizmaster makes known next question's type.

The quizzer upon whom a foul is called becomes ineligible to jump on that question number, including any alphanumeric question numbers. The chair remains ineligible to jump on that question number, including any alphanumeric question numbers, even if the quizzer who committed the foul is substituted for.

If the officials fail to call a foul, a coach or captain may call it to the attention of the quizmaster. If in the officials' opinions a foul might have been committed, the quizmaster will give due warning to the violating team. A foul cannot be charged, and points cannot be deducted when the quizmaster receives such help from a coach or captain.

3 fouls by a quizzer eliminate that quizzer from the quiz. The quizzer must leave the platform immediately. That seat will continue to be ineligible to jump for the entire question number, including any alphanumeric question numbers.

The following are fouls:

- Team members, whether quizzers or coaches, communicating with each other, other teams, or with the audience between the time the question type is introduced and points are awarded; communication can include non-verbal communication
- The use of the hands to assist in jumping; hands may not touch any part of the chair or the floor from the time "Question" is called until the quizmaster recognizes the 1st quizzer to jump
- If any light goes on after the quizmaster calls "Question" and before they begin to discernibly read the question; discernibly includes the quizmaster's mouth forming a word shape
- During a Reference or Quote question, if any light goes on after the quizmaster calls "Question" and before they begin to discernibly read the chapter number
- Starting to answer before being recognized by the quizmaster
- Having more than the designated team members, 1 coach, and 1 assistant coach on the quiz platform during a timeout
- If a captain or co-captain confers with their coach or other quizzers prior to issuing a challenge; in addition, the challenge will not be allowed
- Infraction of the rules, in letter or spirit, as discerned by the quiz officials

4.6. Timeouts

Each team is allowed 2 1-minute timeouts. Only 1 of those timeouts may be taken after question number 17, including any alphanumeric question numbers.

- Captains, co-captains, or coaches may call for a timeout.
- Only the coach, assistant coach, and substitute may converse with the team during a timeout.
- Timeouts may be called prior to bonus questions.

4.7. Substitutions

Substitutions may be made only during timeouts or to replace a quizzer who quizzes-out, errs-out, or fouls-out on the immediately preceding question.

- A team can only make 1 substitution per timeout.
- A quizzer being removed from a quiz must stay out for a minimum of 3 question numbers, including alphanumeric question numbers, before re-entering the quiz.
- Quizzers can be substituted for any chair.

Quizzed-out quizzers may remain in the quiz to answer bonus questions. Substituting for them afterward will require a timeout. If subbed-out, they may not return for any reason.

When a quizzer quizzes-out, errs-out, or fouls-out and leaves the platform after the event, a substitute may take their place immediately and without a timeout, even if the incoming quizzer has been subbed-out less than 3 questions ago.

5. Scoring

5.1. Scoring Individual and Team Points

5.1.1. Individual Points

All points that occur during a bonus question or during overtime do not contribute to the individual score of a quizzer.

5.1.1.1. Points Earned

- +20 points for every correct question and toss-up question
- +10 points for every quiz-out without error

5.1.1.2. Points Deducted

- -10 points for 2nd and subsequent personal errors
- -10 points for 3rd personal foul

5.1.2. Team Points

All points earned or deducted by an individual are to be counted towards the team's points.

5.1.2.1. Points Earned

- +10 points for the 1st correct answer given by the 3rd and subsequent quizzer on the team
- +20 points for every correct bonus question before question number 17
 - In 2-team quizzes, this scoring rule does not apply
- +10 points for every correct bonus question after and including question number 17
 - In 2-team quizzes, all correct bonus questions are worth 10 points

5.1.2.2. Readiness Bonus

+20 points will be awarded to each team present at the scheduled start time of the quiz.

Teams that arrive late due to quizzing in another room are excused from the forfeiture of these points. If a single quizzer is late, the coach can decide to keep the +20 points by keeping the late quizzer out the whole quiz, or forfeit the points by subbing the quizzer in after question number 1. This decision must occur before the quiz has been started.

5.1.3. Points Deducted

Team errors are the sum of all individual, non-bonus errors.

- -10 points for every team error starting at team error number 3
- -10 points for every error on a question or toss-up question starting at question number 17
- -10 points for 4th and subsequent team fouls
- -10 points for 2nd and subsequent overruled challenges and protests
- -10 points at the determination of the room officials that a deliberate attempt was made to forfeit a question
- No more than -10 points can be deducted per question asked due to an error
- Non-error-related deducted points are cumulative

6. Quiz Meets

The tournament brackets are based on 3 things: A preliminary round (or "prelims"), an elimination round (or "brackets") at the discretion of the meet director, and championship quizzes.

6.1. Preliminary Rounds

Team points are calculated using a team's score at the end of question 20, together with their place, which could be determined at the end of question 20 or after the end of overtime. Teams start with a base number of points based on their place and receive additional points based on their team score. The specifics are detailed in the section below.

In case of a tie, points are awarded according to the team score at the end of question 20. Overtime is used solely to determine placements.

If ties are not being broken in prelims, more than 1 team can receive 1st place, 2nd place, or 3rd place points.

6.1.1. Team Points Calculation

Team points are calculated by dividing the team score immediately after question 20 by 10 and then applying placement adjustment:

- +1 points for 1st
- No change for 2nd
- -1 points for 3rd

A team will be awarded a minimum of team points based on their placement:

- 10 for 1st
- 5 for 2nd
- 1 for 3rd

6.2. Elimination Rounds

When more than 9 teams are involved, at the determination of the meet director and announced before the meet begins, there may be XYZ quizzes following these guidelines:

- If there are 10 to 14 teams, the top 9 should be placed into a final 9 championship bracket after the opening round, for the elimination round, and the remaining teams dropped.
- If there are 15 to 20 teams, the top 6 teams should be placed in the championship bracket, the next 9 places (7 through 15) should quiz in the intermediate quizzes given below (XYZ) and the remaining teams should be dropped.
- If there are more than 24 teams, the top 6 should be placed in the championship bracket, teams 7-15 should quiz in the XYZ quizzes to determine places 7-15. Teams 16-24 will quiz in XXYYZZ intermediate quizzes given below to determine their placement.

A Consolation Final 9 bracket will be used for positions 10-15 (determined by XYZ quizzes) and places 16-18 determined by XXYYZZ quizzes. The teams in the XYZ quizzes cannot move below position 15, regardless of how low their XYZ quiz score was. Likewise, the teams in the XXYYZZ quizzes cannot move above position 16, regardless of how high their intermediate quiz scores were.

XYZ Quizzes

- Quiz X: Teams 7, 12, 15
- Quiz Y: Teams 8, 11, 14
- Quiz Z: Teams 9, 10, 13

XXYYZZ Quizzes

- Quiz XX: Teams 16, 21, 24
- Quiz YY: Teams 17, 20, 23
- Quiz ZZ: Teams 18, 19, 22

There will be a tie-breaker quiz for positions 6, 15, and 24. Ties for positions 7 through 14 will be broken in accordance with the following priorities:

- Head-to-head competition in previous quizzes
- Total points scored in preliminaries
- Least number of errors

Points earned in these quizzes should be added to the points earned in the opening round by each team. The highest 3 teams, based on the point system above, are then placed in the above bracket. The next 6 teams are placed in the lower bracket.

6.2.1. Elimination Round Brackets

6.2.1.1. Tournament Bracket "A"

This bracket is based on the "winner-move-up" philosophy and is designed to select the best team out of a possible 9 teams through winning rather than losing. The teams are then arranged in order (from 1st to 9th place) by points. The winners of quizzes A, D, and F meet in quiz G for the championship.

In this bracket, the top 3 teams are involved in a triple-elimination, the middle 3 teams in a double-elimination, and the last 3 teams in a single-elimination. This way only those teams that have earned the right through winning will advance to the final quiz.

Bracket Design

This bracket does not require each team to lose to be eliminated.

- Quiz A: Teams 1, 2, 3
- Quiz B: Teams 4, 5, 6
- Quiz C: Teams 7, 8, 9
- Quiz D: 2nd Quiz A, 3rd Quiz A, 1st Quiz B
- Quiz E: 2nd Quiz B, 3rd Quiz B, 1st Quiz C
- Quiz F: 2nd Quiz D, 3rd Quiz D, 1st Quiz E
- Quiz G: Winner Quiz A, Winner Quiz D, Winner Quiz F
- Quiz H: Same 3 Teams in Quiz G

Championship Quiz

- Quiz I: If the winner of Quiz G does not win Quiz H, Quiz I will have the winners of Quiz G and H (only). The other team will be eliminated.

6.2.1.2. Tournament Bracket "B"

Each team in the final 9 must lose twice. A team may make the finals by actually winning only 1 quiz in this tournament bracket.

Bracket Design

- Quiz A: Teams 1, 6, 7
- Quiz B: Teams 2, 5, 8
- Quiz C: Teams 3, 4, 9
- Quiz D: 1st Quiz A, 1st Quiz C, 2nd Quiz B
- Quiz E: 1st Quiz B, 2nd Quiz A, 2nd Quiz C
- Quiz F: 3rd Quiz A, 3rd Quiz B, 3rd Quiz C
- Quiz G: 3rd Quiz D, 3rd Quiz E, 1st Quiz F
- Quiz H: 2nd Quiz D, 2nd Quiz E, 1st Quiz G

Championship Quizzes

- Quiz I: 1st Quiz D, 1st Quiz E, 1st Quiz H
- Quiz J: 2nd Quiz I, 1st Quiz I, 3rd Quiz I
- Quiz K: 2nd Quiz J, 1st Quiz J, 3rd Quiz J (if needed)

If the same team took 3rd place in Quiz I and J, then Quiz K will be a 2-team quiz to determine 1st and 2nd place.

- Quiz L: 3rd Quiz K, 1st Quiz K, 2nd Quiz K (if needed)

6.2.1.3. Tournament Bracket "C"

This bracket is a combination of brackets A and B. A team must win at least 2 quizzes to obtain a position in the finals.

Bracket Design

- Quiz A: Teams 1, 4, 9
- Quiz B: Teams 2, 5, 7
- Quiz C: Teams 3, 6, 8
- Quiz D: 1st Quiz A, 1st Quiz B, 2nd Quiz C
- Quiz E: 2nd Quiz A, 2nd Quiz B, 2nd Quiz C
- Quiz F: 3rd Quiz A, 3rd Quiz B, 3rd Quiz C
- Quiz G: 2nd Quiz D, 3rd Quiz D, 1st Quiz E
- Quiz H: 2nd Quiz E, 3rd Quiz E, 1st Quiz F
- Quiz I: 2nd Quiz G, 3rd Quiz G, 1st Quiz H

Championship Quizzes

- Quiz J: 1st Quiz D, 1st Quiz G, 1st Quiz I
- Quiz K: 2nd Quiz J, 1st Quiz J, 3rd Quiz J
- Quiz L: 2nd Quiz K, 1st Quiz K, 3rd Quiz K (if needed)

If the same team took 3rd place in Quiz J and K, then Quiz L will be a 2-team quiz to determine 1st and 2nd place.

- Quiz M: 3rd Quiz L, 1st Quiz L, 2nd Quiz L (if needed)

6.3. Championship Quizzes

A team must win twice to become the champion team. All 3 teams will continue to quiz until 1 team wins twice.

If the same team wins the 1st 2 championship quizzes, 2nd place is determined by the most 2nd places. If that is a tie, 2nd place will be determined by the clarification section (below).

If the champion team is determined in 3 quizzes, 2nd and 3rd places will be determined by the clarification section (below).

If the champion team is determined in 4 quizzes, 2nd place is determined by the most 2nd places. If that is a tie, 2nd place will be determined by the clarification section (below).

6.3.1. Clarification for 2nd and 3rd Place

If necessitated from the above championship quizzes, 2nd place will be determined as follows:

1. The team that scored the most points in the championship quizzes; or if there is a tie,
2. The winner if the 2 teams quizzed earlier; or
3. The team with the highest average points in the final 9; or if there is a tie,
4. The highest standing in the preliminary round

7. International Bible Quizzing

These rules apply to the *International Bible Quizzing* (IBQ) championship meet conducted annually, administered under the oversight of the *Christian and Missionary Alliance* (CMA) *Quizzing Leadership Team* (CQLT).

7.1. Eligibility Requirements

All quizzers for IBQ competition must be 12 to 18 years of age at any point during the quiz season. Each quiz season begins on August 1 and ends on July 31.

In order to quiz at Internationals for a specific district:

- The quizzer must reside in that district or in a bordering community
- Their home church must be from the district in which they quiz

Any exceptions to this must be brought to the CQLT.

7.2. Team Structure

Each district will be allowed to send as many teams as the district feels will be competitive and that they are financially able to send. These will be the district's international teams.

Each team must have a coach and may also have an assistant coach.

7.3. Event Registration

All arrangements, promotion, and administration will be handled by the CQLT and the Life Office.

Notification by each district of its intention to enter a team must be received by the CQLT, on a form supplied by the CQLT, no later than the date posted on the CMA Bible Quizzing website. The names of the IBQ team, its quizzers, and its coaching staff, and all registration fees must be sent, when specified, to the Life Office for that quiz season. District participation fees for the current quiz season must be paid in order to register for the IBQ competition. Any exceptions to this must be brought to the CQLT.

7.4. Selection of Officials

IBQ officials may include quizmasters, answer judges, scorekeepers, statisticians, and a meet director. IBQ officials will be appointed by the CQLT. To be considered for the CQLT appointment, all officials must:

- Be a regular church attender
- Have 3 seasons of district quizmastering experience and be recommended by their district office or quiz committee
- Go through an evaluation process established by the CQLT, to determine that each official is qualified to perform their specific role

When deemed necessary, any official may be replaced from their position during a meet by the CQLT. Team coaches whose teams are not involved in the quiz shall serve as answer judges and scorekeepers if needed.

7.4.1. Scorekeeper

At least 1 scorekeeper will tabulate the results of each question on official scoresheets in every IBQ quiz. They shall keep a running score of each quiz. Points will be accurately tallied on individual quizzers for each team by statisticians appointed by the CQLT.

7.4.2. Statistician

Statisticians shall:

- Not be a regular scorekeeper
- Be responsible for keeping individual quizzers' scores
- Be responsible for keeping individual teams' scores and provide updates to the teams of their current standings

7.5. Quiz Question Selection

Questions must be written covering the entire material for the quiz season. Question set preparation will be the responsibility of the CQLT. All questions for all quizzes will be selected from across the full set of questions.

7.6. Equipment

Electronic jump-seat equipment must be used for all competitions. A backup set must be on hand at all times.

An unofficial scoreboard must be maintained in full view of the audience at all times or the score read at the beginning of each timeout.

An audio recording system must be used in all rooms.

8. Change Management Process

The Bible Quizzing Rule Book and all associated subordinate documentation are open for amendment by anyone. This describes the process for those changes and how the documents will be managed for annual *International Bible Quizzing* (IBQ) championship meets.

The rule book source material is written as a series of highly-structured Markdown files that can be used to automatically generate consumable content in a desired form. These source files along with supporting documentation and tooling are maintained in a public GitHub project:

<https://github.com/gryphonshafer/Quizzing-Rule-Book>

For any proposed changes, the content change should be submitted as a *pull request* (PR) to this project. These submissions can be from anyone. If someone has a change proposal but is daunted by GitHub PR handling, they can contact the project's owner or anyone else for assistance.

Submitted PRs will be in an open review period for 3 calendar months from the date they are submitted, during which time they can be discussed and debated by anyone using the comment features on GitHub.

At the conclusion of the 3 months, a simple majority of the 6 quizzing members of the CQLT shall ratify or dismiss the PR. The CQLT may appoint a standing rules committee to whom ratification responsibility can be delegated. In that case, a simple majority of the standing rules committee is sufficient for PR ratification.

Submitted PRs that are ratified will be merged to an `integration` branch. Immediately following each IBQ, the `integration` branch will be merged to `master`. Whatever is in `master` will be considered the rule book and supporting documentation for the upcoming IBQ. No changes to `master` are allowed except for this single annual merge from `integration`.