

Coaches' Bulletin

BROTHER NEAL GOLDEN

A brief history of Brother Neal's contribution to the rules and procedures of the national organization

YEARLY GAME UPDATES

The major rule changes that go into effect for the 2024-25 tournament season

VOTING PROCEDURES REMINDER FOR JUDGES

Procedures followed by all AGLOA certified cube game judges for rules changes

COMMON MISTAKES

A few issues that arose at the 2024 AGLOA National Tournament that coaches and players should look out for

WHAT'S NEXT?

Proposed updates for the reading games and more

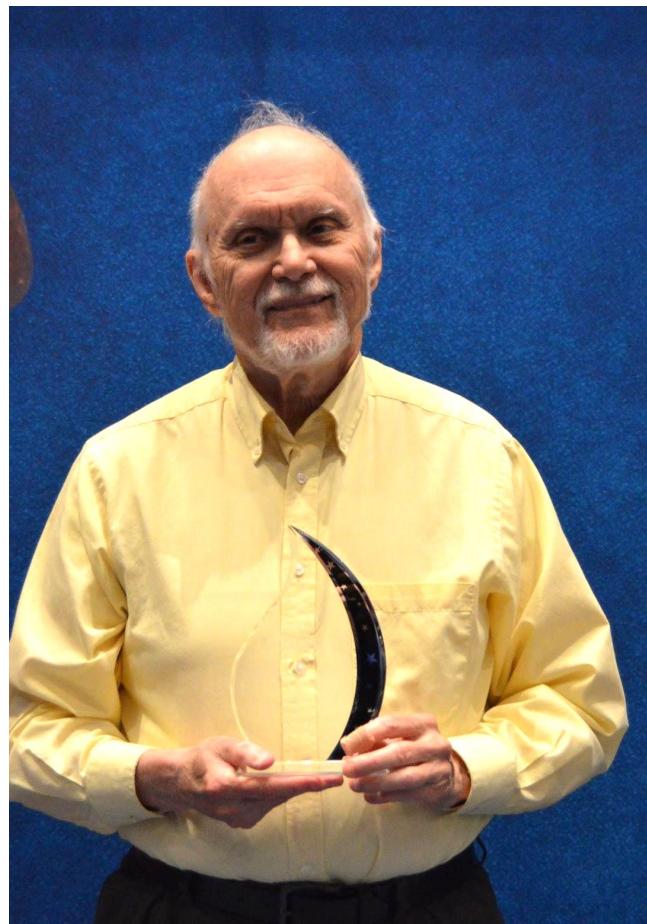


Bro. Neal's efforts helped structure Academic Games

Everyone who is in someway connected with Academics Games, past or present, should know Brother Neal Golden, S.C. He has served the community for fifty-eight years. Besides being one of the founding members of the Academic Games Leagues of America, a [Hall of Fame Coach](#), and the longtime director of the New Orleans Academic Games League, he has been crucial to the implementation of and perpetuation of the league's tournament rules, specifically for the math games. In August of 1968, he served on the initial National Tournament Rules Committee, helping to avert the arguments that would ensue from the games' rules not being written down.

From 1972 until 1991, the [Outstanding Senior award](#) was called the "Brother Neal Golden Award." The following is an excerpt from the 1980 national tournament's administration manual that contained tidbits of the first fifteen years of Academic Games history.

"The [Outstanding Senior] award is named for Brother Neal Golden, a legend himself in Academic Games circles. Neal became involved in Academic Games in December of 1966 when his St. Aloysius team won the New Orleans Holiday Academic Games Tournament (featuring EQUATIONS and a brand new game



called PROPAGANDA). He went on to organize and continually coordinate one of the largest Academic Games leagues in the nation surrounding New Orleans. To assist officials in the games of EQUATIONS and ON-SETS, Neal authored a lengthy Officials' Manual for both games and also serves as a chairperson of the National Academic Games Tournament Rules Committee. In addition, Neal authored and published Training Manuals for students and teachers in both EQUATIONS and ON-SETS. These two publications are the 'bibles' for serious mathematics academic games players throughout the nation."

Every coach and player has been affected by Brother Neal's work for the national organization. We all continue to respect and revere him and appreciate all of the work that he has done and will do for Academic Games.

2024-25 Game Updates



Propaganda

SECTION A: Techniques of Self-Deception

- 1 Prejudice
- 2 Academic Detachment
- 3 Drawing the Line
- 4 Not Drawing the Line
- 5 Conservatism, Radicalism, Moderatism
- 6 Rationalization
- 7 Wishful Thinking
- 8 Tabloid Thinking
- 9 Causal Oversimplification
- 10 Inconceivability

SECTION D: Techniques of Exploitation

- 1 Appeal to Pity
- 2 Appeal to Flattery
- 3 Appeal to Ridicule
- 4 Appeal to Prestige
- 5 Appeal to Prejudice
- 6 Bargain Appeal
- 7 Folksy Appeal
- 8 Join the Bandwagon Appeal
- 9 Appeal to Practical Consequences
- 10 Passing from the Acceptable to the Dubious

SECTION B: Techniques of Language

- 1 Emotional Terms
- 2 Metaphor and Simile
- 3 Emphasis
- 4 Quotation Out of Context
- 5 Abstract Terms
- 6 Vagueness
- 7 Ambiguity
- 8 Shift of Meaning

SECTION E: Techniques of Form

- 1 Concurrency
- 2 Post Hoc
- 3 Selected Instances
- 4 Hasty Generalization
- 5 Faulty Analogy
- 6 Composition
- 7 Division
- 8 Non Sequitur

Presidents

Elementary & Middle Divisions

Group **C** (#28-46) — subdivided into #28-37 for the first round and #38-46 for the second round

Junior & Senior Divisions

Group **A** (#1-17) for the first round and Group **C** (#28-46) for the second round

The theme for all divisions is **Early Years**, and the additional theme for Jr/Sr is **Social Reform Movements**.

Theme

Our Nation's Capital: Washington, D.C.

Current Events

Local Questions: January 1 through August 31, 2024

National Questions: January 1 through December 31, 2024

Equations

ODD-Year Variations

The usual shift from EVEN-Year variations to ODD-year variations takes place in the Elementary and Middle Divisions, since the 2025 AGLOA National Tournament occurs in an odd year.

Elementary Division Variations

Sideways, Upside-down, 0 Wild, Factorial, Multiple Operations, Three-operation Solution, Remainder, Two-digit Numerals, LCM, GCF, Number of Factors

Middle Division Variations

Sideways, Upside-down, 0 Wild, Factorial, Multiple Operations, Base m , Multiple of k , Number of Factors, Exponent, Powers of the Base





How to Become a Certified Judge

1. Study the rules.

Anyone looking to become certified in any cube game (*Equations*, *On-Sets* or *LinguiSHTIK*) should be well-versed in the rules and even the manuals. Review the tournament rules, including any recent changes, for the games in which you plan to certify.

2. Take a practice test.

If available, you can complete a practice test, found on agloa.org, for the game in which you wish to be certified.

3. Request a test.

Reach out via email to the game chairperson ([Craig Zeller](#) for *Equations* and *On-Sets* or [Ellen Bredeweg](#) for *LinguiSHTIK*). They will send you a test at no cost to take electronically. Typically, tests will not be ready for taking until October 1. Tests must be taken by March 1.

4. Score 80% or higher.

You must score at least 80% for each division in which you attempt to certify. It is possible to certify for one division and not another.

5. Recertify when necessary.

Judges must be recertified every five years or lose their certification. A [list of AGLOA Certified Cube Game Judges](#) can be found on agloa.org.

Voting Procedures Reminder for AGLOA Certified Judges

At the Math Meeting during the 2017 AGLOA National Tournament, new procedures were discussed to give certified judges a voice in the process for changing the rules of the games which they all coach and spend time learning enough to certify at the national level. They were subsequently adopted by the LinguiSHTIK judges. These procedures were shared in the [May 2017](#) and [March 2018](#) Coaches' Bulletins.

The following procedures were approved by the AGLOA Board of Directors and are still in effect moving into the 2024-25 tournament season.

- All currently certified judges, as of 2019, submit and vote on *Equations*, *On-Sets*, or *LinguiSHTIK* rules proposals for the upcoming tournament season.
- Proposals are sent via email to the game chairperson and must include a rationale and divisions to which they apply. The list of proposals received will be distributed via email to all certified judges for discussion.
- Each judge votes only on proposals for the game(s) and division(s) for which that judge is certified. If you are not a certified judge, communicate your thoughts on the proposals to a certified judge from your league or area.
- The deadline for submitting proposals is April 15. Ballots will be sent via email on May 15. June 1 is the deadline for submitting ballots via email.
- 60% of the votes cast are necessary to pass a proposal. No quorum of eligible voters is required for any proposal. (This was decided by the judges after the 2017 AGLOA National Tournament via email.)



Craig Zeller

Equations & On-Sets Chair
craigzeller@agloa.org



Ellen Bredeweg

LinguiSHTIK Chair
ellenbredeweg@agloa.org



Common Mistakes at the 2024 AGLOA National Tournament

Calling Base 10 in Junior or Senior

Base 10 is only allowed in Middle Division *Equations*. It is an illegal variation in Junior and Senior Divisions. Illegal variations garner an automatic -1 penalty.

Improper Procedure Followed

Several appeals/protests from *Equations* and *On-Sets* players arose from not checking Solutions properly, not clearly explaining issues to the judges, etc.

Circling Incorrect Scores in Reading Games

When the answer is revealed in a reading game, a player checking their opponent should carefully circle the correct score for the other player. Don't rush!

Guessing From a Single Fact

In *Presidents*, ambiguous clues can point to different presidents. In the game, the "totality of the clues" determines the answer and not one single fact.



What's Next?

At the 2019 AGLOA National Tournament, a decision was made to switch the way *Presidents* was played. The idea of splitting the presidents into three groups instead of two halves was discussed and instituted for the following season. Only eight rotations of the three groups were planned with accompanying special topics. A ninth rotation needs to be added in 2027-28 to avoid playing the same presidents from 2025-26 two years later. The question of which special topics will be played in 2027-28 has been raised. A list of potential themes was circulated at the 2024 Nationals. Presidential Pets, Education, Wars, and Presidential Families are ideas for all divisions while Education, Military Service, and Cultural Events were suggested for Junior and Senior Divisions. Hopefully, the special topics for *Presidents* will be chosen before the 2024-25 tournament rules are published but we have time to decide.

During the July 2019 Tournament Council meeting, the idea of a Monitors Certification Quiz, similar to the Judges Certification Tests in the cube games, was proposed. The concept was generally accepted by the Tournament Council members present. The New Orleans Academic Games League instituted the quiz for Propaganda and Presidents, but the COVID-19 pandemic brought this process to a screeching halt. This idea will be revisited in the upcoming tournament season.

Seeking Ideas

Do you have questions about the rules and procedures followed in any of the academic games? Do you want to know more about our history? Do you want tips and tricks and strategies to win? Do you know what the Propaganda technique of Complex Question is? Send your questions or requests to info@agloa.org.