PClassic Information, Rules, & Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: All competitors MUST print and fill out our waiver (please see the PDF below) and bring it with them on the day of the contest.

The Philadelphia Classic ("PClassic") is a four-hour programming competition held each semester at the University of Pennsylvania. This year (Spring 2023), the competition will be held **in person** at the University of Pennsylvania Engineering Quad! It is open to students in grades 5-12 at public or private middle school or high schools, or (for home-schooled students) of equivalent age.

Each team consists of up to four participants. Schools may, and are encouraged to, bring multiple teams. Each school must be accompanied by a coach or chaperone. Please contact us if there is any issue with that.

Each team **must bring a laptop** which is setup for Java, Python or C++ programming. If a team can't bring their own, they should contact us to see if arrangements can be made.

Each team **must have 1 Codeforces account** to use for the contest. Submissions will be submitted via that account. The contest will open up at 1:00 pm ET on the contest date.

PClassic Spring 2023 will take place online on **Saturday, April 22th, 2023**. A map with parking locations and the competition building can be found here (If you have trouble viewing it try logging out of your google apps for education account). Upon arrival, teams should enter through the **Levine Lobby entrance**; it has big glass doors, and there will be signage to help find it.

In regards to COVID precautions, masks are optional but recommended, especially if you are more susceptible to complications from illness or you have been exposed to anyone experiencing COVID or Flu symptoms. If you are feeling unwell the day of the event, we encourage you to take care of yourself and stay home.

Schedule (ET)

9:15	Arrival & check in begins.
10:00	Tech Talk: Sampath Kannan - Cryptography Then And Now
11:00	Kickoff assembly
11:30	Table claim, set up, lunch, practice problem submission, etc.
1:00	Competition begins
5:00	Competition ends. Short Q&A panel with Penn CS students.
5:30	Awards

Contest Format

- Teams of up to four (<= 4)
- Four (4) hours of competition time
- Two divisions (please see new division breakdown below)
- 8 questions for each division, adjusted for difficulty & time limit
    - Some more difficult questions for Classic Division may overlap with some less difficult questions for Advanced Division
- All programming is to be done with Java, Python or C++
- Submission and scoring will be done via Codeforces
- We will **NOT** be providing stubs for this competition
    - Note that this is a shift in logistics from previous PClassic competitions
    - We highly recommend you to be familiar with parsing inputs and handling I/O before the competition. This can be done by trying out a few problems on Codeforces!
    - We will do our best to provide as much information as possible regarding parsing/handling I/O by reviewing this during the Kickoff assembly and by providing resources before the competition.
    - You will have time (from approximately 11:30-1) to test out I/O on the day of the competition and ask any questions that you may have.

Permitted

- One Java, Python, C++ or Computer Science textbook for reference
- Referring to Javadocs (specifically: Java 8) or equivalent Python 3 or C++17 documentation
- **EXACTLY** one computer, setup for Java, Python or C++ programming
    - We recommend IntelliJ for Java!

- Using the internet for problem submission

Not Permitted

- Use of electronic devices other than the team's computers
- Use of multiple keyboards (e.g. to enable multiple teammates to code independently)
- Getting help during the contest from people other than your teammates
- Use of the internet for anything else not explicitly permitted above

Divisions

There are two divisions for this competition: **Classic and Advanced.** The **Advanced** division is meant for competitors who have non-negligible competitive programming experience. To assist in your decision of which division to sign up for, we encourage those who are familiar and comfortable with the following topics to sign up for the **Advanced** division. If you are not familiar with these topics, then we recommend that you sign up for the **Classic Division.**

List of topics for **Advanced Division**:

- BFS
- DFS
- Dijkstra's
- Dynamic Programming
- Segment Trees
- Strong Math Foundation

Please note that these rules are subject to change. We will aim to make any substantial rule changes in advance of the competition so there is no confusion on the day of.