VIRTUAL BATTLE OF THE BOOKS RULES 2023

TEAMS

Each team will consist of up to 8 players. No alternates. Libraries are permitted to form up to two teams with 4-8 players on each team if they receive interest from more than 8 students.

Team members must be entering grades 6-9 in the fall of 2023.

Coaches must register the final number of teams for their library by end of day Wednesday, July 12, 2023, along with the date and time their library’s Battle will be held. No additional teams will be accepted after this date.

Coaches must submit their Team Roster(s) on the day of their competition.

REGULAR ROUND

Every team’s Head Coach will select a singular date/time for their team’s Battle between July 26 – August 1, 2023.

There will be three (3) rounds of fifty (50) questions, based on the titles the participants have read. Questions will be in a multiple choice format and are not ambiguous; answers will be straightforward and specific as they relate to characters, setting, plot, detail, or quote identification. Every team will answer the same questions.

Teams receive 1 point for each correct answer and 0 points for incorrect answers or unanswered questions. There is no penalty for wrong answers.

Questions will be read in their entirety by the Head Coach unless interrupted by the team; interrupted questions will not be finished. If uninterrupted, the team may request the question be repeated, but the clock will not stop.

The countdown timer starts automatically approximately five seconds after the question is displayed. Answers must be entered by the Coach within the allotted 30 seconds; teams will be unable to enter their choice once time runs out. A timekeeper will warn teams when they have ten (10) seconds remaining. The head coach can fulfill this role, or they may designate an assistant coach, library staff member, or volunteer to do so.

All questions must be answered during a team’s designated Battle date and time. It is recommended setting aside at least 2 hours for this event to ensure completion.

Concerns about questions should be brought to the attention of the Battle of the Books coordinator after play has concluded.
Any prompting from Coaches or anyone else not on the team will disqualify the question. Any team found cheating will be disqualified from the Battle of the Books competition. We know this is on the honor system, and we ask our Coaches to be fair and mindful when applying this rule.

The quiz link will be sent at least 24 hours prior to a library’s Battle day; however, the quiz should **not** be accessed by anyone before the date and time previously designated for the event. If a library is unable to access the online quiz during their designated time, the Head Coach should contact the Battle Coordinator; questions will then be shared with them via Google Drive.

While the Battle is taking place, all non-Battle electronics must be turned off. No recording of the event is permitted.

Apparel and accessories of participants may not include the title, author, cover, or trivia relating to the book.

**PLAYOFF ROUND**

Should more than two teams qualify for the championship, playoff rounds will occur on August 3, 2023. Coaches and participants **must** be available on this date, or it will be considered a forfeit. Teams will be notified of their playoff date/time at least 24 hours in advance. Participation will be limited to team members who were present for the regular round.

The playoff round will consist of an additional 75 questions. Each team will receive the same set of questions.

Play will proceed as in the regular round, with the coach reading the question to the team. The response must be given within 30 seconds, with a 10-second warning before time is up. An interrupted question will not be repeated.

1 point will be awarded for correct responses, and 1 point will be deducted for incorrect responses. There will be no change in points for passed or unanswered questions.

If two or more teams receive the same score in the playoff, advantage will be given to the team with more correct answers; if a tie remains, advantage will then be given to the team who completed the playoff questions with the fastest time.

During a playoff round, the only ones present should be the participating team and their coach(es). Spectators are not allowed.
CHAMPIONSHIP

The two top-scoring teams will face off in a Championship Lightning Round on Saturday, August 5th, at the Battle of the Books Field Day, beginning at 1pm. These teams will be notified in advance.

In this round, opposing teams will have eight (8) minutes to answer as many questions as possible, using a “buzz in” system to answer before their opponents. These questions are free-answer, not multiple choice, but are otherwise in the same format as questions from the other rounds (i.e. about specific details, not ambiguous). Questions will be answered as individuals; there will not be discussion as a team.

Questions will be read aloud to both teams. At the end of the question, teams will have five (5) seconds to buzz in. If neither team has buzzed in within this time frame, play will move on to the next question.

If someone buzzes in while the question is being read, the question will not be finished, and play begins at the end of the interruption.

After buzzing in, to prevent confusion, participants should wait until they are recognized before answering. Once this occurs, they will have five (5) seconds to give their response before it’s considered incorrect. Only the player who buzzed in is allowed to respond; teammates cannot help answer.

1 point will be awarded for correct responses, and 1 point will be deducted for incorrect responses (including no response after buzzing in). If a team answers incorrectly, the opposing team will have five seconds to buzz in to “steal” the question if they wish, following the same point value.

The winner will be the one with more points at end of eight (8) minutes. In the event of a tie, there will be a three (3)-minute tiebreaker round, following the same procedure. If additional tiebreaker rounds are necessary, each successive round will be reduced by one (1) minute.

To ensure fairness and accuracy, the Championship Round will include the following roles:

- A primary question reader, who will judge whether or not an answer is correct.
- A backup question reader, who will assist the primary question reader.
- One buzzer spotter, to confirm the first to buzz in.
- Two scorekeepers per team – four in total – to double-check that results are consistent.
- One question timekeeper, who will ensure that each question is answered within the designated time.
- One overall timekeeper, who will announce when the 8-minute round is complete.
- One person to reset the buzzer system after each question.

Last Updated 6/30/23