



**FEBRUARY 2017**

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## **Coaches' Bulletin**

### **Survey of the Month**

Has the number of schools in your league grown the last few years, diminished, or remained the same?

Please reply to [bngolden1@cox.net](mailto:bngolden1@cox.net) and indicate the league you represent.

### **Responses to Last Month's Question**

*How does your league fund the nationals trip?*

- Yanli Zhao, Northville MI: "Parents pay for the trip."
- Lorrie Scott, Indian River County: "Indian River covers the cost by fundraising in the community. Parents do the fundraising. Our most successful effort is a sponsorship letter sent out to family, friends, and businesses. A t-shirt is designed every year that lists the sponsors. I used to ask for a \$100.00 nonrefundable deposit but because the airlines handle groups so differently now, parents have to pay for the tickets very quickly after the invitation to Nationals is issued. Airline tickets are always more than \$100 and I think that shows commitment. Also, schools will often donate money towards the cost of the trip. Parents make up the difference if fundraising doesn't cover all the costs."
- Sarah Miller, Beaver County (PA): "Each district funds nationals for their own students. Some districts pay all costs, some pay only the registration fees, and for some, it is up to the students' families to pay. Each district handles nationals in a different way."
- Nancy Kinard, Palm Beach (FL): "The School District provides funding for our bus transportation to the National Tournament each year. Students pay their own way (which includes registration, food, and room) to the National Tournament. However, we do have some donations to offset the total cost. One of our active parents is heading up a Silent Auction which will be held at the State Tournament in March."
- Brother Neal, New Orleans: "Every school covers the coach's cost. No school pays the entire cost of its students' nationals trip. Some schools prorate budgeted funds for their attendees. Some schools do fundraising. Parents cover any remaining costs."

### **LinguiSHTIK Question**

by Ellen Bredeweg, *LinguiSHTIK* chairperson

A recent question came up about how our official dictionary for *LinguiSHTIK* identifies proper nouns and adjectives. All the entries in the dictionary are lower case, so they use one of four capitalization indications with this explanation:

*cap* = almost always capitalized initially

*usu cap* = more often capitalized than not; capitalized approximately two to one

*often cap* = as likely to be capitalized as not; acceptable one way or the other

*sometimes cap* = more often not capitalized than capitalized; not usually capitalized

For *LinguiSHTIK*, words which are indicated as *cap* or *usu cap* would be considered proper and cannot be used. Words which are listed as *often cap* or *sometimes cap* would be acceptable to use.

### **Presidents Situations**

Questions that arose at a recent tournament:

- A player answered question #6 on line #5, which already had an answer circled.  
*Ruling:* The player gave no answer for #6 and thus scores 0 for #6.
- A player answered question #5 on line #6.  
*Ruling:* A monitor changes #5 on the answer sheet to #6 and vice-versa and initials the change. League rules determine whether the player is penalized.
- A checker circles 6 on the wager sheet for question #6 instead of writing the score of 6 in the blank for question #5.  
*Ruling:* Leave the circled 6 for the time being. If the student whose wager sheet was mismarked wishes to answer for 6 on question #6, no further action is needed. But if the player does not want to answer for 6, a monitor should initial the changing of the precircled 6 and to 4 or 2 by the answerer. There is no provision in the Presidents Tournament Rules for penalizing a checker for mismarking the wager sheet. Leagues are free to enact penalties for their local play.

**Completed Judges Tests must be submitted to AGLOA no later than March 11.**



Submit questions to:  
bngolden1@cox.net

### Question

In Middle, Junior, and Senior *Equations*, players may select Multiple of  $k$ . In that case, when an Equation checker asks the judge to decide whether “the Solution equals the Goal,” is the meaning of “Solution = Goal” modified for  $k$ ?

### Answer

Yes. If Multiple of  $k$  is in force, then “Solution = Goal?” means “Does the Solution differ from the Goal by a non-zero multiple of  $k$ ?” It is incumbent on the judge in all cases to determine what variations are in play before checking a Solution. In effect, the opponent is asking, “Is this Solution correct?” and it is correct only if it satisfies or correctly uses all the variations chosen for the shake.

## Coaching Tips: *Equations*

Do you ever go over rules situations with players or do you spend every practice covering mathematical topics?

Sometimes it’s lack of knowledge of the rules that causes a player to lose a match. It’s disheartening to lose or tie because, for example, you gave the Third Party 6 points on a challenge when she should have scored 4.

### Examples

1. The Goal-setter places seven cubes in the Goal. An opponent charges “illegal procedure” instead of challenging Impossible.
2. A Solution-writer allows an opponent to make two attempts at proving ambiguity or lets a second opponent take a shot at proving ambiguity after the first one fails. Given a second chance, an opponent finds ambiguity.

It is especially helpful to go over situations that arose in a match (practice or real) at the next practice. The player involved in the situation can recount what occurred and how it was handled (or mishandled). Often a discussion of one situation leads to anticipation of other scenarios that may arise. The discussion can reinforce the general rule that should be stressed to players: “When in doubt, call a judge.”