



**JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020**

Volume 4, Number 5

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## **Coaches' Bulletin**

### **Judges Tests**

The judges tests for *Equations*, *On-Sets*, and *LinguiSHTIK* are available for 2020 certification.

Anyone who was certified in 2015 must now recertify. Anyone who has never been certified or whose certification has lapsed must take the test in order to judge a cube game at Nationals. There is no charge for taking the tests.

The appropriate person in each league or district should send a request via email with the number of copies needed and your mailing address to the game coordinator as follows:

*Equations* and *On-Sets*: [bngolden1@cox.net](mailto:bngolden1@cox.net)

*LinguiSHTIK*: [ellenbredeweg@agloa.org](mailto:ellenbredeweg@agloa.org)



Submit questions to:  
[bngolden1@cox.net](mailto:bngolden1@cox.net)

We've had many questions submitted the last two months.

### **Equations**

**Q1** A cube may be used both sideways and upside-down in the Solution. May it be so used in the Goal? Chancharik Mitra (PA)

**A1** No, it may not. The Goal is physically on the mat, and it is impossible for a cube to be upside-down and sideways at the same time. We don't want to get into "I put the cube at a 45° angle to indicate that it can be interpreted as both upside-down and sideways."

**Q2** Multiple Operations and Base 12 are both called. May  $\sqrt{\quad}$  be repeated with Mop if it is used as a digit in Base 12? Chancharik Mitra (PA)

**A2** No;  $\sqrt{\quad}$  may be used multiple times only if it stands for root, not the digit eleven. The same holds true for a wild cube used as  $\sqrt{\quad}$ .

**Q3** The Decimal Point variation says: " $\wedge$  (or  $\ast$ ) may represent a decimal point. If so used in the Goal or Solution, a  $\wedge$  (or  $\ast$ ) may be combined with at most *three* digits to form a numeral." I assume that  $\wedge 125$  is valid in the Goal or Solution in Middle Division. Is that correct? The reason for my question is that the *Tournament Rules* state, "The Solution contains only one-digit numerals." The comment that follows says, "Certain variations allow exceptions to this rule; for example, Two-digit Numerals in Elementary Division, Decimal Point in Elementary/Middle, and Base  $m$  in Middle/Junior/Senior." Decimal Point is *not* listed as an exception. Senay Tascioglu (MI)

**A3** Yes,  $\wedge 125$  is a valid Goal and may be used in a Solution because the variation takes precedence over the general rule. Otherwise, there'd be no advantage to picking the variation. Decimal Point will be added to the comment you cited. Its omission doesn't mean there's a problem since the instances cited are examples and not a complete list.

**Q4** Variations: 0 wild, MOP, and Decimal Point

Only one 0 cube is used in the Solution, and it is used for decimal point in one place and for exponent in another place. Is this acceptable? Senay Tascioglu (MI)

**A4** With MOP, a wild 0 (or x) may be used multiple times only if it represents an operation.  $\wedge$  (or  $\ast$ ) is an operation sign whether it's exponent or decimal point. So it may be used

multiple times as a decimal point. When 0 is wild and used as  $\wedge$ , it receives the same privileges as the sign it stands for. So if one wild 0 is used as  $\wedge$ , any other wild 0 must also be used as  $\wedge$ . But one of the 0s may be decimal point, and the other may be exponentiation. With MOP, the same 0 may be used for exponent one place and decimal point in another.

**Q5** With the same variations as in Q4, may a wild 0 be used multiple times as decimal point? I assume not because decimal is not an operation. Senay Tascioglu (MI)

**A5** In the Glossary at the end of the *Equations Tournament Rules*, "Operation symbol" is defined as: "One of the symbols +, -, x,  $\div$ ,  $\wedge$ , or  $\sqrt{\quad}$ ; this definition applies whether these symbols have their usual mathematical meanings or *special meanings defined by variations*" (italics added here). So a wild 0 may be used multiple times as decimal point.

**Q6** With the Senior variations log and Imaginary, if you do  $\log i$ , what would that equal? Could it equal multiple values since  $i$  runs on a cycle between  $i$  to  $i^4$ ? Anita Zahiri (LA)

**A6** You may not take the logarithm of an imaginary number in *Equations* - just logs of real numbers.

### Propaganda

**Q1** In the 2018-19 local EI/Mid examples was this one: "It's April 8, and it's 45° down here in Mobile, Alabama. And they want me to believe there's global warming. Bah! Humbug!" What makes this Selected Instances and not Hasty Generalization? Steve Wright RIP (MI)

**A1** In the Panel's opinion, the speaker already decided that global warming is a hoax and was selecting one day's weather to justify that opinion.

**Q2** The Nationals EI/Mid examples included this example for Section A. "A soccer player after his team lost: 'They had too many players with professional offers and the referees knew that, so they didn't trust us. We were considered the losing team from the beginning.'" Why was the answer Rationalization and not Inconceivability? A. Nonymous (USA)

**A2** The example as submitted read this way: "A soccer player after his team lost: 'They had too many players with professional offers and the referees knew that, so they didn't trust us. We were considered the losing team from the beginning. Don't feel too sad about the result; we could not have won that game.'"

When the Panel responded to the example (which was presented without the author's opinion), two selected Rationalization, but one chose Inconceivability. The second phase of the panel's process consists of the editor listing each example on which the panel disagreed with an Analysis of the example and a proposed revision. The Analysis of the above example went like this: "The player is giving an excuse for losing. The last statements, which the dissenter referenced, is after the fact and refers to the referees' alleged bias. If the player had stated *before* the match that his team could not win because the refs would be against them, it would be Inconceivability." The proposed revision was to remove the last sentence. The panel then agreed that the Inconceivability option was eliminated.

### Presidents Scratch Sheets

The New Orleans Academic Games League used the Presidents scratch sheet at its local tournament last month. Coaches were asked to give their opinions on two questions:

1. Did the scratch sheets help students score higher?
2. Did the scratch sheets increase or lessen cheating and marking answers problems?

Those coaches who used the scratch sheets at practices felt they helped new players score better. The coaches/monitors felt that use of the scratch sheets did not produce cheating problems but also didn't decrease the instances of marking answers on the wrong line.

It's not too late to submit questions for reading games at Nationals. Send Presidents questions and Propaganda examples to: [bngolden1@cox.net](mailto:bngolden1@cox.net). Send Theme/Current Events questions to: [lorrie.scott@indianriverschools.org](mailto:lorrie.scott@indianriverschools.org)