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Q & A – Rules Changes for 2018-19

- ◆ *Equations*
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Interesting examples from Nationals 2018

## Coaches' Bulletin



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### Equations

**Q1** What rules changes were approved by the judges for 2018-19?

**A1** The No Goal rule has been changed as follows: An opponent who does not agree with the “No Goal” declaration indicates disagreement by picking up the challenge block and challenging the “No Goal” declaration. He then has two minutes to write a correct Equation (Solution and Goal). If there is a third player, she may also write an Equation. The Challenger and Third Party may use as many cubes from Resources as needed for the Goal and Solution.

Scoring for this Challenge is as follows:

- If the Challenger presents a correct Equation, he scores 6. If the Challenger’s Equation is incorrect, he scores 2.
- If the Third Party presents an incorrect Equation, she scores 2. If the Third Party presents a correct Equation, she scores 4 if the Challenger’s Equation is also correct or 6 if the Challenger’s Equation is incorrect. If the Third Party does not present an Equation, she scores 6 if the Challenger’s Equation is incorrect or 2 if the Challenger’s Equation is correct.
- If either the Challenger or the Third Party presents a correct Equation, the original Goal-setter scores 2. If neither the Challenger nor the Third Party presents a correct Equation, the original Goal-setter scores 6.

Two other changes affect **Senior** variations.

1. For the Imaginary variation, each Equation-writer must write *i* in the Equation for the Imaginary unit.
2. The Decimal in Goal variation has been expanded as indicated by the **bold** section: Each Equation-writer may determine where decimal points occur in the Goal. **Three consecutive digits may be placed in the Goal, but a decimal point must be placed in front of them, between two of them, or after the third digit in any Equation.**

### On-Sets

**Q2** Any rules changes for *On-Sets*?

**A2** The only change is the No Goal rule with appropriate adaptations for *On-Sets*. The crucial adaptation is that the No Goal Challenger must write the configuration of the digit cubes that forms the Goal for the Solution.

### Propaganda

**Q3** What are the sections for 2018-19?

**A3** A, C, D, and E

Jr/Sr coaches and players are reminded that Section **E** includes the Forms of Reasoning as part of the Non Sequitur technique.

### Presidents

**Q4** What are the adjustments for 2018-19?

**A4** Elementary/Middle Divisions play presidents #25-45.

Theme for all divisions: **Cabinet Members**.

In Junior/Senior, a second theme is **Vice Presidents**. Also, Junior/Senior clues for #25-45 may involve U.S. Leaders **Group 4**: Cesar Chavez, John Foster Dulles, Martin Luther King Jr., Henry Kissinger, Douglas MacArthur, George Marshall, Thurgood Marshall, and Sandra Day O’Connor.

### Nationals Reading Game Examples

#### *Propaganda*

This example was originally intended for EI/Mid: The Bears defense played “Ring Around the Quarterback” all day. He didn’t have time to throw for a touchdown.

The author’s opinion was Metaphor and Simile. However, two of the three panelists chose Quotation Out of Context. The response caused the editor to look at the example again and come up with this analysis. You could argue that the writer is comparing the play of the Bears defense with children forming a ring and all falling down at the end of the short song – hence, Metaphor and Simile. However, you could also say that “Ring around the Quarterback” is twisting the children’s song/game “Ring around the Rosie” to fit a football game. So the example was moved to Jr/Sr and two answers were required: Metaphor & Simile and Quotation Out of Context.

**Propaganda examples** (continued)

Here's one that was revised but stayed in EI/Mid:

Magazine ad for a casino in New York City:  
"Big Apple. Big Fun. Win big playing on more than 100 table games and 1,700 slot machines. Enjoy tailgate-inspired cuisine and more than 30 flat screen televisions."

The author's opinion was Numbers. But one panelist put Repetition based on the use of the word "big" three times. So the example was revised to eliminate one of the uses of "big":

Magazine ad for a casino in New York City:  
"Win big in the Big Apple playing on more than 100 table games and 1,700 slot machines. Enjoy tailgate-inspired cuisine and more than 30 flat screen televisions."

The final example illustrates why Propaganda is an endlessly fascinating game that can feed off today's headlines. This is a Jr/Sr example for which two answers were required:

Fred: "I won't attend any more pro football games. Too many players don't respect our National Anthem."

Ted: "You're just doing that because all the players disrespecting the anthem are black."

Fred: "That's not true. I'd be offended even if all of them were white."

Ted is using the technique of Attacking a Straw Man by questioning Fred's motive for not attending any more games. Then Fred uses Appeal to Ignorance in his reply since what he would have done if the players were white can't be proven or disproven since it's a hypothetical situation.

The *Equations* and *On-Sets* Tournament Rules for 2017-18 will be posted by **July 1** along with the variation sheets for all divisions.

Several worksheets will be revised in light of the rules changes. These will be posted on the AGLOA website for download.

**JULY ISSUE:** Rules changes in *LinguiSHTIK*, *Theme* (along with subtopics), and *Current Events*.