



JUNE-JULY 2020

Volume 5, Number 1

- *Themes, Sections, Groups for 2020-21*
- *Reading Game Adjustments for 2020-21*
- *Q&A: Equations*
- *Q&A: Presidents*

Coaches' Bulletin

Themes, Sections, Groups for 2020-21

Equations and On-Sets

With no opportunity to discuss proposals at Nationals, there is a **moratorium** on rules changes in math games for 2020-21. However, situations that require clarification may be submitted for discussion by certified judges in the affected divisions. Any modifications to comments and examples in the *Equations Tournament Rules* or situations in the *Officials Manual* will be included in those publications by July 1.

The usual shift from Even-year variations to Odd-year variations takes place. Whether the school year is even or odd is determined by Nationals. So 2020-21 is an *odd* year although 2019-20 has certainly been an "odd" year in another sense of the word. (Shift of Meaning)

- **Elementary** Division: Two-digit Numerals, LCM, GCF, and Number of Factors replace Average, Smallest Prime, Percent, and Decimal Point.
- **Middle** Division: Number of Factors, Exponent, and Powers of the Base replace Average, Percent, and Decimal Point.
- **Junior/Senior** Divisions: The variations are the same every year - no even/odd alternation.

Propaganda

The sections for 2020-21 are: **B, C, D, E**. The April, May, and June online *Propaganda* quizzes covered those sections.

LinguiSHTIK

The 2020-21 Tournament Rules will be available by July 1.

<Continue next column>

Presidents

For 2020-21, the Presidents Groupings are as follows:

El/Mid: Group **B #16-33** (16-24 first round, 25-33 second)

Jr/Sr: Group **B #16-33** and Group **C #28-45**

The Themes are: All Divisions - **Occupations and Posts**; Jr/Sr - **Immigration**

The April, May, and June online *Presidents* quizzes focused on those groups and themes.

Players will be provided a **scratch sheet** in place of the Gazetteer. In addition to the presidents' pictures and basic information, the scratch sheet will include a reproduction of the answer sheet on which students may mark off presidents after the 6- and 4-point clues. (More about this in future Bulletins.)

Theme

The theme for 2020-21 is the **1990s**.

The Social Studies committee is currently developing the outline of topics, which will be published by July 1 at ag1oa.org.

Current Events

The year changes to 2020.

Reading Game Adjustments

The past few years, the only reading game tournament that leagues conducted before mid-December was Propaganda. However, two leagues have reported changes in their schedules for 2020-21 in response to school board policies regarding the virus.

With large group assemblies banned for the first semester, these two leagues have scheduled all their reading games for the first

<Continue next page>

semester since they can do those virtually. They hope to play cube games the second semester.

Those decisions affect the AGLOA timetable for finalizing the reading games questions for local play.

Propaganda – the annual September 15 target date remains in place.

Presidents – the questions availability date has been moved up to November 1. If any league must schedule their Presidents tournament earlier than November 1, contact

bngolden1@cox.net as soon as possible.

Theme/Current Events – in recent years, no league scheduled these tournaments before the first of the year, but that will probably not be the case this year. *Please let us know when your league's reading games tournaments will be held as soon as possible.*



Submit questions to:
bngolden1@cox.net

We have many questions left over from 2019-20.

Equations

Q1 A player asked, “Does the Solution equal the Goal?” It did, but I noticed that the Solution did not use all the cubes in Required. So I stated that the Solution did equal the Goal since no one mentioned the improper usage of cubes. I discussed this with the other experienced judges that were in attendance, and they all reluctantly agreed. However, we would like your input. Keith Richards (MI)

A1 You were correct in not mentioning that a cube in Required was not used in the Solution. When a player asks, “Does the Solution equal the Goal?,” that eliminates the possibility of any other objections to the Solution. Many times, checkers do not notice ambiguity in the Solution or Goal but a missing Required cube (or use of a cube not available) is also no longer an issue once the Equation is given to the judge to verify.

If the Equation requires some complicated mathematical calculations, the judge should ask the players if there are any other issues to settle. If not, the judge can tell the players to start the next shake (if there’s still time in the round) and take the disputed Solution elsewhere and determine whether it equals the Goal.

Note: This ruling also applies in On-Sets.

Q3 At the end of the five extra minutes, a judge is called to a two-player match. One player says the opponent moved the second-to-last cube to the mat, then challenged Impossible. The judge imposes a -1 for the illegal challenge. When the judge says that both players must write an Equation, the opponent who made the illegal challenge now challenges Impossible. Chancharik Mitra (PA)

A3 The “Stop” warning has been given to end the five extra minutes. So it is too late to make a challenge. Each player must write an Equation as in an Impossible Challenge. From a coaching standpoint, the player who moved the second-to-last cube to the mat should have challenged Impossible before “Stop” was called.

Q4 Senior Division: With Imaginary, if the Goal is $|^{(1\div 2)}$, could an Equation-writer give a Solution for either of the square roots of i [$\sqrt{2/2}+(\sqrt{2/2})i$] or [$-\sqrt{2/2}+(-\sqrt{2/2})i$] James Yu

A4 Yes, but the Equation-writer must specify which interpretation of the Goal the Solution equals.

Presidents

A1 What is a good starting point for teaching this year’s themes of Occupations and Posts and (for Jr/Sr) Immigration.

The 2019 edition of the Presidents Worksheets offers these worksheets for this year’s themes: Occupations and Posts: Worksheets **B7** and **B8** Immigration: Worksheets **B9** and **C6**

The 4- or 2-point clues may contain information straight from the worksheets. 6-point clues might contain other information on the theme topics.