

Texas 4-H Quiz Bowl Guide



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Acknowledgement

In December 2016, a Roundup Review Committee was established consisting of county agents from across the state. The agents varied in tenure and roles with the agency so to achieve perspective from all levels. The committee also included a small number of the 4-H Specialist along with a representative of the RPLs. This group provided insight as to how changes would impact the Districts as well as to better coordinate efforts on a programmatic front.

Based on feedback from the subcommittee tasked with review of the Texas 4-H Quiz Bowl contest, the recommended changes to the overall Quiz Bowl Guidelines was adopted.

Quiz Bowl Review Committee Members include:

- Steve Estes, Jones County
- Maranda Revel, Wichita County
- Phoenix Rogers, Galveston County
- Amanda Spiva, Oldham County
- Kristy Titzman, Walker County
- Montza Williams, District 5 4-H Specialist

In February 1997, people from across Texas formed the Texas 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Rewrite Team. This team updated and revised the Horse Quiz Bowl Guide developed in the 1980s. Members include:

- Patty Hayes – Brazos County 4-H Leader
- Carmen Richard – Liberty County 4-H Leader
- Michelle Warren – Montgomery County Extension Agent
- Kevin Chilek – Extension 4-H Specialist
- Wes Allison – Armstrong County Extension Agent
- Bob Armentrout – Polk County Extension Agent
- Reggie Lepley – Walker County Extension Agent
- Michael Benefield – Instructor, North Central Texas College
- Dr. Pete Gibbs – Professor and Extension Horse Specialist
- Dr. Doug Householder – Professor and Extension Horse Specialist
- Ken Johnson – Extension 4-H Specialist
- Jeff Howard – Assistant Professor and Extension 4-H and Youth Specialist

Other project teams developing quiz bowl competitions specific to their projects had said they needed a universal set of guidelines. This guide contains the official guidelines for all Texas 4-H quiz bowls. Specific information about each project can be added to the back of this guide, including official references, sample questions and project details.

As future projects develop, other quiz bowl competition materials will be added to this guide.

Contents

Introduction 2

Team Selection..... 2

Contest Rules 3

 Contestant Age & Team Structure 3

 Reference Material 3

 Requirement to Submit Questions 3

 Question Types 4

 Reading and Answering of Questions 4

 Match Procedures..... 5

 Spectators & Viewing..... 7

 Equipment Failure..... 8

 Time Outs..... 8

 Protesting..... 8

 Code of Conduct 10

 Cell Phones and Other Electronics..... 10

 Scoring..... 10

 Awards & Placings..... 11

 Question Development..... 12

 Game Officials Job Descriptions..... 13

 Equipment& Equipment Sources..... 14

Contest management instructions 15

 Site Criteria..... 15

 Equipment and Supplies Check-List..... 15

 Management Team Prep Meeting..... 16

 Participant & Coaches Meeting 16

INTRODUCTION

The quiz bowl contests provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H projects to demonstrate their knowledge on a specific subject matter in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness, cooperation, and fairness prevail. Quiz bowl guidelines can be adapted and used for any 4-H project or officer training, or as a tool to teach knowledge and skills about 4-H in general.

A quiz bowl is not meant to be a memorization process, in that members only study questions and know the answers to those questions. It is a motivational tool to provide a FUN way to encourage members to learn project information.

Quiz bowls teach such life skills as self-discipline, observation, listening, and making and defending decisions. They teach members to:

- Develop reasoning and critical-thinking abilities;
- Make sound decisions;
- Improve their personal skills;
- Develop quick and accurate powers of observation;
- Express themselves concisely;
- Develop poise, self-discipline and self-confidence;
- Develop project knowledge and skills; and
- Participate as a member of a team, thus developing cooperation and teamwork among project members.

TEAM SELECTION

Leaders should develop a systematic way to track each 4-H member's progress. Establish written guidelines to select the teams and make them available to each interested project member at the beginning of the project. These guidelines should set a time-line for selecting teams and clarify requirements for participation on a county team (attend practice sessions, attend contests, etc.).

Some suggestions include (but are not limited to):

- Conduct county contest, utilize results to determine team rankings
- Conduct county contest, keeping individual scores on each participant. The top scores in each age division will form the county team.
- Prepare and give written quizzes, with the high-scoring individuals in each age division to constitute the teams.
- Members should not be excluded or included on a team based on whether the leader/coach dislikes or likes the member.

CONTEST RULES

Contestant Age & Team Structure

1. Texas 4-H Quiz Bowl contests can be divided into three divisions based on the member's grade as of September 1 of the 4-H year the contest is held
 - a. Juniors: 3rd – 5th grades
 - b. Intermediate: 6th – 8th grades
 - c. Seniors: 9th – 12th grades

NOTE: *Some county and district level contest may combine Juniors/Intermediates on teams. Please contact your county office for specific rules.*

- NEW**
2. Quiz Bowl Teams will be comprised of **four (4)** members. This is to ensure teams advancing to National contests have the minimum number of contestants (4) required at all National contests.
 3. There will be only one coach designated during any given round per team. The coach shall sit in an area designated by the moderator. The coach's role in the match is only as an observer. One time-out may be called by a coach during a match for the sole purpose of positive reinforcement of their team members.

Reference Material

All questions used in the quiz bowl contest will come from the official sources. See the individual contest supplement for a complete list of reference materials.

Requirement to Submit Questions

- NEW**
1. For the State Quiz Bowl Contests, **each county must submit 15 questions** per qualifying contest they are competing in (beef, horse, swine or nutrition), regardless of the number of teams competing from that county for a given contest. Example: if a county qualifies two teams for Beef Quiz Bowl, the county will only need to submit 15 beef questions whereas if a county qualifies a Beef and a Nutrition Quiz Bowl team, the county would need to submit 15 questions for each contest.

NOTE: Teams that do not submit questions by the deadline **MAY NOT** be allowed to participate in the contest.

2. Criteria for Questions:
 - a. Fifteen (15) questions must be submitted by **Roundup Registration deadline** of the current year. Specific instructions on how to submit questions will be released annually in the spring.
 - b. Questions should be new questions not previously submitted or used in past contests.
 - c. Only official contest reference materials may be used when developing questions.
 - d. No true/false questions will be accepted.
 - e. Please review the section titled "Question Development" later in this document for guidance on how to effectively write quality quiz bowl questions.

Question Types

1. The number of questions used per round will be up to the contest management but must include at least eight (8) one-on-one questions, sixteen (16) toss-up questions, and two (2) to four (4) bonus questions.
 - a. The number of questions asked during one-on-one play must be evenly divisible by 4 to assure each team member an opportunity to respond to the same number of questions (i.e., 8 questions, 12, etc.).
 - b. No more than 25% of all toss-up questions should have a bonus attached.
- NEW** 2. The number of questions may be increased in later matches. **For state contests**, it is recommended that the following strategy is utilized in developing question sets:
 - a. For rounds 1-4 of the contest, use the scenario laid out in #1 above.
 - b. When 8 or fewer teams remain in contest, increase number of questions in each set to include at least sixteen (16) one-on-one questions, twenty (20) toss-up questions, and up to five (5) but not fewer than three (3) bonus questions.
- NEW** 3. There will be three types of question used, 1) One-on-One, 2) Toss-Up, and 3) Bonus
 - a. **ONE-ON-ONE** questions are those to which only one member of each team may respond in a **head-to-head match** between the acknowledged members of each team. These points will count toward individual and team scores.
 - b. These points will count toward individual and team scores.
 - c. **TOSS-UP** questions are open to response by all contestants. These points will count toward individual and team scores.
 - d. **BONUS** questions are attached to toss-up questions and are given to the team that correctly answered the toss-up question. These points will count toward a team scores only and do NOT count towards individual points. No more than 25% of toss-up questions will have a bonus question attached and in general will be somewhat more difficult.

Reading and Answering of Questions

1. The moderator will read all questions, indicating the question number and, when applicable, designating the chairs eligible to respond.
- NEW** 2. Once a contestant activates a buzzer, they must be **ACKNOWLEDGED** before they can answer the question. After being acknowledged, the contestant **has five (5) seconds** to start a valid answer. It is the responsibility of the acknowledger to determine if an actual answer was started within the 5-second time limit. This ruling cannot be protested.
 - a. A **one (1) point penalty** will be deducted from the individual and team score if a contestant answers a question before being acknowledged.
3. The first answer(s) given will be accepted as the official answer, including multiple response questions. Repeating the questions will not be considered the initiation of the answer.
 - a. If the answer given is the same as the expected answer OR implies the same as the expected answer, it will be accepted. If the answer is different than the expected answer, it will be referred to the judge(s) for a decision.

- b. If a question was read to completion, the judge(s) may ask the contestant to explain, expand, be more specific, or clarify their answer.
- c. ***The judges will be allowed to verify an answer, or the validity of a question. If verification cannot be made, the question will be replaced.***

NEW

- 4. If a question is INTERRUPTED by a buzzer being activated DURING the reading of the question, the moderator will immediately cease reading the question. The contestant responding has **five (5) seconds**, after being ACKNOWLEDGED, to begin their answer.
 - a. If the answer given is correct for the entire question (both read and unread portions), it will be accepted. If the answer given is correct for the portion of the question read aloud, but wrong for the remainder of the question, the answer will not be accepted.
 - b. Since the question was interrupted, the judges will not be allowed to ask for any type of clarification of the answer given.

NEW

- 5. **The correct answer will be given** for any question answered incorrectly, incompletely, and those not attempted by either team. Additionally, alternate acceptable answers will be given when more than one answer was available.
- 6. The **scorekeeper announces the gain or loss of point**, as well as the total of each team at the end of each question. At this time, a coach may request a review of the score if he or she thinks it is needed.

NEW

- 7. **If a question is thrown out, either due to poor reading by the moderator or a decision of contest officials (referee/judge, timer, scorekeeper), it will be replaced by another question so that the total number of questions to be asked remains consistent.**

Match Procedures

- 1. **Double elimination:** For district and state contests, each contest is a double elimination tournament where a total of two losses are needed to eliminate a team from further competition.
 - a. Order of teams will be drawn at random. A bye system should be used if an odd number of teams enter. The number of teams participating, and the time allowed for the contest will determine the exact procedure followed.
 - b. County, invitational, and other contests may choose to use a single elimination tournament but should consider using double elimination whenever time and space permit.
- 2. **Starting the Contest**
 - a. The moderator conducts a coin toss with the two team captains. The winner chooses which team is Team A and therefore answers the first question.
 - b. Teams are assembled and seated at their respective panels and each contestant given the opportunity to check the equipment.
 - c. The team captain is designated and is seated at the direction of the moderator in position number one.
 - d. Before play, the moderator will announce the method by which they will acknowledge contestants.
- 3. **First Round: ONE-ON-ONE** questions are those to which only **one member of each team** may respond in a **head-to-head match** between the acknowledged members of each team. These points will count toward individual and team scores.

NEW

- a. The moderator shall indicate clearly the start of one-on-one play.
 - b. Prior to reading the question, the moderator shall indicate which two contestants are eligible to respond.
 - c. Each question shall be addressed to only **one member of each team**, beginning with the number 1 contestant of each team and progressing with subsequent questions to the number 2, 3 and 4 contestants, respectively.
 - i. If any contestant other than the two designated contestants responds, that individual and the team will lose two (2) points.
 - ii. If any contestant responds more than twice to questions directed to another contestant, they could be disqualified from the game play. The remainder of the match will be played with less than the full team, and all questions normally addressed to the eliminated contestant will be addressed only to the opposing contestant.
 - d. There will be an equal number of one-on-one questions per contestant per match.
 - e. There will be no toss-up or bonus questions asked during the one-on-one period.
 - f. The **scorekeeper announces the gain or loss of point**, as well as the total of each team at the end of each question.
 - i. The point value of a response to a one-on-one question will be as follows:
 1. Correct response = +1 points (individual and team)
 2. Incorrect response = loss of 1 point (individual and team)
 3. If both contestants to whom a question is addressed fail to signal to attempt an answer in the 5-second allowed time, neither contestant nor team shall lose or gain any points. The answer will be given, and the next question read.
4. **Second Round: TOSS-UP and TOSS-UP with BONUS** questions are open to response by all contestants. These points will count toward individual and team scores.
- a. The moderator shall indicate clearly the start of toss-up questions.
 - i. The point value of a response to a toss-up question will be as follows:
 1. Correct response = +1 point (individual and team)
 2. Incorrect response = loss of 1 point (individual; and team)
 3. If no contestant signals to attempt an answer in the 5-second allowed time, neither contestant nor team shall lose or gain any points. The answer will be given and the next question read.
 - b. The moderator shall indicate clearly when a bonus question is attached to a toss-up question.
 - i. If a team correctly answers a toss-up question that has a bonus attached, the team will have an opportunity to answer a bonus question.
 - ii. The moderator reads the bonus question and a 10-second discussion period is permitted for team consultation to determine the answer. The end of the 10-second period is signaled by the timer. At the signal from the time, **a 5-second period is then permitted for the designated team captain OR designee, chosen by the team during consultation, to BUZZ IN and begin answering the bonus question AFTER BEING RECOGNIZED.**

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- iii. All parts of bonus questions must be answered correctly with no partial points permitted, regardless of the number of parts of the question answered correctly.
- iv. No part of the bonus question will be repeated nor will any additional information be given to the contestants relative to the question.
- v. The point value of a response to a bonus question will be as follows:
 - 1. Correct response = 2 points (Does not count toward individual points or towards team participation bonus points)
 - 2. Incorrect response = no points lost
 - 3. No answer = no points lost

NEW

5. Team Participation Reward Points

- a. In order to encourage full team participation, Team Participation Reward Points will be awarded in each match to teams that meet the criteria. During play, a two (2) point Team Reward will be given to teams that have each team member correctly respond to a one-on-one or toss-up question.
- b. To obtain Team Reward Points, each member of the team must have correctly answered a question OTHER than a bonus question.
- c. Once a team has earned the Team Reward Points, they may then begin repeating the process to earn additional Team Reward Points. There is no limit to the number of times a team is eligible for Team Reward Points.
- a. No team will be credited toward a Team Reward with a member's second correct response until the first Team Reward has been awarded. Each time Team Reward points are awarded, the team may again begin accumulating credits for Team Reward points.

6. Completing the Contest: Following the final question, the team with the highest number of points shall be declared the winner of that match.

- a. In the event of a tie after the designated number of questions, five (5) additional toss-up questions will be asked. Bonus questions will not be asked in the overtime period. If a tie still remains after the five-question overtime, the moderator will continue to read toss-up questions, each being worth one point. The first team to win a point (or because of a loss of a point by the other team has a 1-point advantage) will be declared the winner. *Tie breaker points do NOT get added to individual, team or team bonus scores. They are used to break match ties only.*
- b. **Once the moderator has declared a winner based on the scores, there shall be no protest.**
- c. There shall be no protest of any questions or answers following the declaration of the winner.
- d. Winners of each match advance to the next round of competition.

Spectators & Viewing

- 1. Only the contestants, each team's coach (of the match in progress) and contest officials are allowed in the contest room during the preliminary matches. If facilities permit, others attending the contest may watch the final match. Any audience member making excessive noise or movement that could influence a team answer will be asked to leave the contest.
- 2. Contestants and/or coaches are not allowed to bring scribing materials (pen, paper, etc.) or official reference materials into the contest room with them.

Equipment Failure

1. It shall be the responsibility of each contestant to assure themselves that all equipment is operating correctly at the start of the match.
2. If the device being used ceases to function during a match or is believed to be malfunctioning, a "time out" may be called by **any contestant and/or the moderator**
3. If after checking it is determined that there is an equipment malfunction, the faulty part(s) will be replaced and play resumed.
4. Scores accumulated up to the point of the "time out" shall stand and all further points awarded during the remainder of the match added to or subtracted from this total.
 - a. If both referee judges or one referee judge and the moderator deem it advisable, points awarded for the two (2) questions asked immediately prior to determination of equipment failure may be recalled and two (2) additional questions used.
5. Under no conditions shall there be a replay of a match in which there was equipment failure.

Time Outs

1. Any **contestant** or the **moderator** may call for a "time out" for equipment failure. These "time outs" may be called only after a question has been answered and before the start of the next question.
2. Any **contestant**, **either team coach**, or the **moderator** may call for a "time out" for clarification of a rule or to allow for unexpected problems. These "time outs" may be called only after a question has been answered and before the start of the next question.
3. **Coaches** are allowed one, 1-minute time-out during the match to visit with their team. A "coach's time out" should be used as a way to preserve the positive youth development experience of the quiz bowl. If during a "coach's time out," the coach behaves in a way that undermines positive youth development, or is unsportsmanlike, the coach will be dismissed from the contest. Time outs are allowed only after a question is answered and before the next question is started.
4. Abuse of time-out provisions may result in one or more of the following:
 - a. Dismissal of team member and/or coach.
 - b. Dismissal of entire team with forfeiture of any points or standing.

Protesting

1. **Any team member** may declare an unofficial protest to a question or answer to a question, but only at the time a particular question is read or the answer is given. Once an unofficial protest has been made, the team lodging the protest has a 10-second consultation period to declare an official protest. The team captain buzzes in and announces the team's intent to lodge an official protest.
2. When an official protest is made, play will be suspended until the protest is resolved.
 - a. If the protest focuses on contradicting information from the official references, contest officials bring the official references to the contest room for the teams use. *Any type of question (one-on-one, toss-up, or bonus), or the answer to any type of question may be protested.*
 - i. The protesting team will then be given 2 minutes to support their protest.

- b. If the protest focuses on game play rules, equipment failure, or other issues, contest officials will refer to the Texas 4-H Quiz Bowl Guide for instruction and may defer judgment to contest superintendents.
3. A protest committee will consider the protest. Their decision in all cases is final. The moderator and the referee judges will consider the protest and must agree on the acceptability or rejection of any question and/or answer and the subsequent actions to be taken. If no referee judge is present, both the moderator and at least one other contest official (scorekeeper, timer) must agree on the actions to be taken.

NEW

- a. A **one (1) point team penalty** will be assessed if the protest is not upheld.
4. Depending on exact situation, the moderator will take one of the following actions as is deemed appropriate:
- a. A **question** is protested **before an answer** is given, and the protest sustained -- discard the question. A substitute question will be read.
 - b. A **question** is protested **after an answer is given** (correct or incorrect) -- the moderator and referee judge(s) determine the validity of the protest of the question. The question may then be discarded at no loss of points and a substitute question will be read, or the question may be allowed with the appropriate gain or loss of points.
 - c. An **answer** is protested (either correct or incorrect) – the moderator and referee judge(s) determine the validity of the protest. Points will be added or subtracted as appropriate.
 - d. **There shall be no protest once the moderator has declared a winner based on the scores.**
5. Abuse of protest provisions may result in one or more of the following:
- a. Dismissal (or replacement) of team captain.
 - b. Dismissal of entire team with forfeiture of any points or standing.
6. No source of information is infallible. There may at times be answers given to questions, which are in agreement with the recommended sources, which are in fact erroneous or out of date. Every effort shall be made to eliminate such questions, but in the event of such occurrence, the referee judges and moderator may agree to:
- a. To accept the answer and give an explanation of the correct or up-dated information for future use of the question.
 - b. To accept only the correct answer.
 - c. Replace the question to the appropriate contestants
 - d. In an instance where there is a conflict of information between sources, the most recent source (publication date) will prevail. For example, if there is a conflict between The Horse and Equine Science, Equine Science would be considered correct as it is a newer publication.
7. Spectators, parents and visitors may not protest any question, answer or procedure during the course of play. They may, however, submit in writing to the contest officials any suggestions, complaints or protests at the conclusion of the contest. Unseemly behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct or any actions, which are generally accepted as detrimental to the contest, may subject the perpetrators of such actions to dismissal from the immediate area of the contest.
8. If a score is protested, the official scorekeeper's records are reviewed. If used, the scoreboard attendant's record is unofficial and posted merely as convenience for the participants and coaches where appropriate.

Code of Conduct

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in one or more of the following:
 - a. A warning;
 - b. Dismissal of the team member;
 - c. Dismissal of the coach; or
 - d. Dismissal of the whole team.
2. The moderator, judge(s), timer, and/or scorekeeper will decide what action to take.
3. Spectators demonstrating unseemly behavior, unsportsmanlike conduct or any actions, which are generally accepted as detrimental to the contest, may subject the perpetrators of such actions to dismissal from the immediate area of the contest.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics

1. NO recording equipment, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, video cameras, movie cameras, tape recorders or any other type of camera may be used during the competition.
2. Cell phones and other electronics will not be allowed in the contest room. Violation of this rule will result in dismissal from the game by the team member.
3. Transcribing contest questions by any means is prohibited. There will be NO handwriting, typing, recording or computer use in the contest rooms. Affiliated teams will be eliminated from the competition for violation of this rule.

Scoring

1. One-On-One Questions

- a. Correct..... +1 individual and team
- b. Incorrect -1 individual and team
- c. A contestant other than the two designated contestants responds -1 individual and team

2. Toss-Up Questions

- a. Correct..... +1 individual and team
- b. Incorrect -1 individual and team

3. Bonus Questions

- a. Correct..... +2 team only
- b. IncorrectNo points lost

4. Miscellaneous

- a. Answering without signaling (buzzing in)..... -1 individual and team
- b. Answering without being acknowledged by moderator -1 individual and team

5. Team Reward Points

- a. Each member of team correctly answers question +2 team only

NEW

- b. No answers will accumulate toward a second team reward for that team until the first team reward points have been given

NEW

6. Protesting

- a. Not upheld..... -1 team point
- b. UpheldNo penalty points lost
- c. Abused..... Dismissal of team and loss of all points

7. **NOTE for National Participants:** Point values may be different at National contests

Awards & Placings

1. **Team Awards:** The number of placings will be determined by contest superintendents

- a. The rank of teams will be determined on the basis of their position within the double elimination brackets. After two losses, the teams eliminated in the same round, will be placed on the basis of the higher score in the eliminating round.
- b. **TIES** for team awards will be broken on the basis of: first, high average score for the entire contest; second, highest match score in entire contest; third, total score of top two matches in entire contest.

NEW

2. **Individual Awards: State contests** will give individual awards in addition to team awards. County and District contests are not required to do so but may consider giving individual awards.

- a. Scores will be kept for each individual contestant. The number of placings will be determined by contest superintendents.
- b. Only those contestants who have participated in three or more matches will be considered for the top individual awards.
 - i. The three high match scores for each individual will be used in cases where individuals participate in more than three matches.
 - ii. **TIES** for individual awards will be broken on the basis of: first, high average score for the entire contest; second, high individual match scores; and third, total number of points earned in the contest.

Question Development

1. Whether developing questions for county, district, or state contests, it is important to keep the following in mind:
 - a. All questions should come from the list of approved reference materials ONLY
 - b. Question should avoid being one-line questions that create buzzer races, which test reflexes and memorization skills and rather, should be developed to test deep, relevant academic knowledge.
 - c. Questions should be realistic and based on relevant and academically important knowledge rather than “details” found in reference material. When writing question, ask yourself “would the coach or county agent know the answer?” If not, the question should be discarded.
 - d. Do not record information word-for-word from reference material.
 - e. Make questions innovative and interesting and the answers accurate and complete. If a question has several potential answers, all should be listed.
 - f. Try to put the “key word” of the question towards the end.
 - g. Quiz bowl questions can be asked in several formats, including open-ended, definitions, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and true/false. For senior level contests at district and state, avoid true/false questions.
 - h. Questions should be appropriate for the age division of the contest. When developing question sets for junior/intermediate contests, consider utilizing more multiple choice and/or true/false questions. Also consider the appropriateness of the subject for that age group.
2. To ensure high quality, questions should:
 - a. Be clear and free from ambiguity.
 - b. Be concise and unencumbered by superfluous words and phrases. Do not make a question so long or complex as to make it difficult for the 4-H'er to recall the question.
 - c. Be grammatically correct and free from spelling and typing errors.
 - d. Use vocabulary appropriate to the age/educational level of 4-H participant.
 - e. Avoid stereotyped or slang language.
 - f. Avoid “trick” questions that are intentionally misleading.
3. Questions should be of varying difficulty levels, both within age groups and across age groups. Some may be entirely appropriate for seniors based on difficulty and/or subject matter but would not be appropriate for junior contestants. Conversely, not all junior questions should be easy. However, all junior-level questions should be considered “fair game” as senior-level questions as well.
4. Who develops the questions?
 - a. Questions may be developed by project leaders, youth members, Extension staff or others.
 - b. To further involve project members in the learning process, a project leader could assign each member to develop a certain number of questions from a specific reference. Ideally, the assignment should relate to a topic addressed at that particular meeting, or the next one, to reinforce the materials taught/or to be taught.
5. Questions should be reviewed by one or more individuals to ensure they are relevant and up-to-date with the newest information, that all acceptable answers are included, and are not ambiguous or misleading.

Game Officials Job Descriptions

1. **Bowl coordinator** - The bowl coordinator must have organizational skills and be able to work well with people. He or she should also be able to delegate responsibility to others. Knowledge of the subject matter helps, but is not required. The bowl coordinator should study the bowl rules and information to be as knowledgeable as possible about the bowl. This person should be willing to ask questions and have a positive, open attitude.
2. **Moderator**- The moderator shall assume the direction of the matches within that particular room, ask all questions, and designate contestants to answer questions, and accept or reject all answers unless the questions and/or answers are challenged. The moderator may indicate when a contestant has exceeded the allocated time for a question. The moderator will declare the match winner and shall at all times be in control of the matches.
3. **Referee Judges** - At least two referee judges are recommended and must be knowledgeable on the subject matter. When a team protests a question or answer, the referee judge(s) must agree on the acceptability or rejection of any question and/or answer and subsequent actions to be taken. They may consult with the moderator and bowl resource publications if any question arises about a team's answer. In all cases, the referee judge serves as the final authority and their decision cannot be protested. *At county and district contests, moderators with appropriate subject matter expertise may serve as a referee judge when there are limited personnel available.*
4. **Time Keeper** - Unless this duty is assumed by the moderator or by a referee judge, the time keeper will monitor all time intervals and designate when time of response has been exceeded and will handle all controls of the game equipment. It is strongly recommended that neither the moderator nor a referee judge be used as a time keeper.
5. **Score Keeper** – One person records all points gained/lost and the running tally on the official score sheet. After each question they verbally announce the running, even when there is no change in points. *At county and district contests, this duty may be assumed by the moderator, referee judge or by coaches. It is strongly recommended that the time keeper not assume this duty.*

Equipment & Equipment Sources

A quiz bowl can be held without electronic equipment. However, electronic equipment does add more excitement and accuracy to the event. Additionally, all District and State competitions will utilize electronic equipment.

1. Game panels - An appropriate device will be used which will provide a clear indication of the first contestant to respond to a question.
2. Time Recorders – If game panels do not have timers, a stop watch or other appropriate time device will be required.
3. Score Keeping Devices – Printed score sheets will be used to maintain official record of individual and team scores. An oral tally will also be given after the official scorekeeper completes each question. Contest coordinators may choose to also utilize a visual scoring device, such as a blackboard, flip chart or electronic light display, so that team scores are visible to the contestants at all times. The visual scoring device can be maintained by the official score keeper or by a second score keeper.

Electronic equipment is available from commercial sources or may be built by a local resource person. Costs range from \$450 to more than \$700 to either build or buy quiz bowl equipment. To make equipment last longer, we recommend use of a heavy-duty carrying case to protect it from dust, transport damage, etc. There are different types of electronic equipment, some are simple table top buzzers without timing devices and others are sophisticated systems with up to ten handheld signaling devices. Study information on potential equipment choices carefully before making a final selection. Below is description of equipment used at State 4-H quiz bowls:

- Four (4), hand held signaling units for each team, total of eight (8) units needed for contest (wired or wireless options are both used)
- Built in timing clock display, with 5-second and 10-second timers
- Indicates first player to signal and locks out future signals until being reset

For general descriptions and current prices on quiz bowl equipment the following is a suggested vendor. Others may be available. *This list does not imply endorsement of any of the products nor of the equipment sources by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. It is provided for reference only.*

ZEECRAFT, INC.
Rt. 2, Box 157H
New Milford, PA 18834
1-800-662-7474

CONTEST MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Site Criteria

If a quiz bowl is used to supplement your 4-H project meetings, you can conduct it in an informal environment—a leader’s house, school, etc. However, as a competitive event on the county, district or state levels, a more formal environment is needed.

Space requirements and set-up

1. Check-in area – should be located in a hallway near contest rooms
2. Holding room – large enough to seat entire participation list plus parents/coaches
3. Contest rooms – large enough for moderator table/chairs and contestant table/chairs while leaving space between the contestants and the judge/moderator, and the judge/moderator and the audience
 - a. The number of contest rooms needed depends on the number of teams competing. Events with more than 6 teams competing will benefit from two or more contest rooms.
 - b. If final round is conducted before an audience will need at least one contest room large enough to accommodate seating for audience
4. Restrooms should be close to contest area
5. Provide appropriate area to conduct the awards presentations, possibly the holding room

Equipment and Supplies Check-List

- Tables and chairs for the moderator, judge(s), contestants and check-in area, chairs for the audience if spectators are allowed to watch the final round
- Electronic buzzer set for each contest room AND spare sets of buzzers, check to ensure working
- Extension cords, power strips or a multiple outlet cord, electrical adapter for three-prong plugs
- Contest bracket, can use on-line bracket systems and/or paper brackets posted on walls
- General supplies (Pens/pencils, tape, scissors, etc.)
- Clip boards, one per contest room plus extra
- Quiz Bowl score sheets for each round
- Signs to identify rooms: Check-in/Registration, Orientation/holding rooms, Contest rooms, Committee Orientation, Awards/Recognition Program, and others as needed.
- Question packets for each age division for each round, tie-breaker questions, extra questions
- Complete set of reference materials
- Orientation sheets and/or contest rules
- Awards and certificates/participation ribbons for all participants (optional)
- Table tents identifying team members by number and letters (ie 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B)
- Objects used to track individual points (ie token, beads, turning of table tent, etc)

Management Team Prep Meeting

To prepare agent and volunteer workers, assign duties (moderator, judge, buzzer operator) prior to contest day and arrange to have a volunteer orientation meeting on the contest day. All agents and volunteers working the contest should attend this meeting, even if they have extensive quiz bowl experience. Schedule enough time to answer questions, practice a mock bowl contest, and work with equipment.

1. Welcome and thank volunteers for their participation, check to see that all workers are present. Make introductions if needed.
2. Explain how the contest will be run.
3. Review job description for all workers, including registration/check-in, moderator, judge, timer/buzzer keeper, scorekeeper
4. Give basic reminder of rules
5. At the county level, keep the bowl low-key and fun! Give the judge(s) instructions on how lenient to be (especially for junior division).
6. Demonstrate how to use equipment and then conduct a mock contest using equipment.
7. Let the volunteers know that bowl coordinator is available if they need help.
8. Give directions to rooms where the bowl games will be held.
9. Explain the brackets and the how the order of games will be played.
10. Explain the awards/recognition procedures/program.

Participant & Coaches Meeting

Hold this meeting between registration and the start of the bowl contest, allow enough time to review basic rules and answer questions from participants and coaches.

1. Welcome the participants and coaches and give overview of basic rules
 - a. Double elimination tournament, must lose *twice* before done. Participants may leave the bowl when their last game is over, or may stay to watch final round (if applicable). Describe how/where brackets are posted
 - b. Types of questions
 - c. Process for buzzing in and answering questions
 - d. Scoring system
 - e. Time-outs
 - f. Protests
 - g. Tie-breakers
2. Give instructions for the awards/recognition ceremony.
3. Give instructions for lunch, snacks, building rules, etc.
4. Stress fun and learning rather than competition!
5. Answer questions from participants.