

2009-2010 Knowledge Bowl Advisors' Meeting
September 21, 2009 – 4:00-5:30 pm

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Kirsten Kuehl, Southeast Service Cooperative
Phone: 507-281-6670 or 1-800-657-6996
Email: kkuehl@ssc.coop
Fax: 507-288-7663
After Hours Cell: 507-259-6810

STATE COORDINATOR

Susan Ward, Lakes Country Service Cooperative
1001 East Mount Faith, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-739-3273 or 800-739-2459 or sward@lcsc.org

Participation At-A-Glance

There is no limit to the number of teams from each school/district.

Junior High

- 1994-95 12 districts, 21 teams
- 1995-96 15 districts, 27 teams
- 1996-97 13 districts, 25 teams
- 1997-98 15 districts, 29 teams
- 1998-99 17 districts, 31 teams
- 1999-00 18 districts, 31 teams
- 2000-01 18 districts, 36 teams
- 2001-02 17 districts, 31 teams
- 2002-03 18 districts, 41 teams
- 2003-04 19 districts, 47 teams
- 2004-05 19 districts, 48 teams
- 2005-06 20 districts, 51 teams
- 2006-07 19 districts, 45 teams
- 2007-08 19 districts, 52 teams
- 2008-09 20 districts, 56 teams

Senior High

- 1994-95 24 districts, 45 teams
- 1995-96 26 districts, 52 teams
- 1996-97 27 districts, 51 teams
- 1997-98 28 districts, 53 teams
- 1998-99 31 districts, 59 teams
- 1999-00 30 districts, 65 teams
- 2000-01 29 districts, 68 teams
- 2001-02 28 districts, 70 teams
- 2002-03 29 districts, 68 teams
- 2003-04 27 districts, 62 teams
- 2004-05 27 districts, 68 teams
- 2005-06 27 districts, 70 teams
- 2006-07 30 districts, 82 teams
- 2007-08 30 districts, 91 teams
- 2008-09 32 districts, 96 teams

Items covered at the spring (June 2009) Regional Coordinators' Meeting included:

- 2010 State Knowledge Bowl™ will be April 15-16, 2010 at Cragun's in Brainerd.
- At the State level, teams are divided into tiers based on enrollment. Schools can request to go from A to AA.
- Academic Hallmarks will be the question source again this year. NAQT questions are too expensive.

REMINDERS

- There cannot be any "conference" meets outside of the service cooperative's Knowledge Bowl™ programs, since it is a trademarked program. If your conference and AD have competitions going, you will need to call it something else with your team and with your "conference".
- In addition, SSC cannot provide question sets. Conference teams will need to order these on their own. Companies that have been used by teams in our region are: Academic Hallmarks (www.greatauk.com) and Questions Unlimited (www.qunlimited.com).

STRENGTH OF SCORING (SOS)

- The Strength of Scoring method is used at the state meet. SOS points are given at the end of the meet, as follows: each time in top room = 1.5/round, each time in 2nd room= 1 pt. /round, and each time in 3rd room= .5 pts. /round. **Strength of Scoring will be used during both Junior High and Senior High Sub-Regional and Regional events.**

TIE BREAKERS

- Tie Breakers (at Sub-Regional and Regional: When teams are tied following an oral round, the teams will be ranked based on points scored in the oral round just completed. (More points results in a higher rank.) When those scores are also tied, teams will be ranked in the same order that they were ranked before the oral round just completed.

HANDBOOKS

- The 2009-10 Senior High Knowledge Bowl Handbooks are used for both Junior and Senior High. All rules and procedures are the same, except that **junior high teams consist of one more person per team (six students).**

ROUND ROBINS

- We can accommodate 18 teams at a time at the Southeast Service Cooperative for Round Robins.
- Regarding the number of alternates allowed at Round Robins, we allow “extra” alternates at Round Robins, but only 6 students take written (junior high)/5 students take written (senior high). Extra alternates will take the written test (either individually or with other extras).
- Round Robins will be held at the Southeast Service Cooperative Conference Center. Teams can choose to attend either a morning session (9:00 - 11:30 am) or an afternoon session (12:30 - 3:00 pm) each month. We provide coffee and a pop machine is available for individuals to purchase their own.
- The written round is 60 questions and taken by all students (including extra alternates—either individually or with other “extras”). Requiring all students to take the written round helps eliminate wandering students with nothing to do.
- Advisors should request the days/times they would like their teams to compete.
- Let Kirsten know as soon as possible if there will be changes in the number of teams or if changes need to be made to the round robin schedule.

COMPETITION CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

- If a competition needs to be postponed (due to weather/late start or closing) Kirsten will contact the schools/advisors involved. In addition, it will be posted on the website homepage at www.ssc.coop. Advisors should provide home phone numbers for after-hours communication. If there is questionable weather, the website will also say that the competition is on.
- “Snow Days” have been built into the Round Robin schedule.

SUB-REGIONALS and REGIONALS

NEW!

- Sub-Regionals will be held at the Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) Heintz Center building. Students and adults will need to bring their own lunches and beverages. Vending machines for snacks only are available, but the food service is not. We are not permitted to order from outside vendors, only the College’s. We discussed this option and most agreed that the food service would be too expensive.
- Due to the number of teams and rooms being used, teams should bring one set of equipment (pocket box and strips) to Sub-Regionals. SSC doesn’t have enough for all the rooms.
- The Regional will be held at the Southeast Service Cooperative. Teams can place a pizza order that will be delivered.

JUNIOR HIGH

Teams are divided in half for competition at the Sub-Regional and Regional level. Tiers are determined using the most recent enrollment figures (grades 6-8) from MDE.

Tier AA

- Chatfield
- Dover-Eyota
- Kasson-Mantorville
- Kenyon-Wanamingo
- Pine Island
- Plainview-Elgin-Millville
- Red Wing
- Winona

Tier A

- Caledonia
- Fillmore Central
- Glenville-Emmons
- Goodhue
- Grand Meadow
- Houston
- Kingsland
- Lanesboro
- Mabel-Canton
- Rushford-Peterson
- Southland
- Spring Grove

JUNIOR HIGH DATES

- Junior High Round Robin dates are:
 - October 8, 9, 12 (Thurs, Fri, Mon)
 - November 2, 3, 4 (Mon, Tues, Wed)
 - December 2, 3, 4 (Mon, Tues, Wed)
- Sub-Regionals for A: January 6 (Wednesday) @ RCTC (Rochester Community and Technical College)
- Sub-Regionals for AA: January 7 (Thursday) @ RCTC (Rochester Community and Technical College)
- Regional for Tier A: January 26 (Tuesday) @ Southeast Service Cooperative
- Regional for Tier AA: January 27 (Wednesday) @ Southeast Service Cooperative

9th GRADE PARTICIPATION

- The Service Cooperative representatives decided several years ago to institute a statewide rule that Junior High students cannot participate in Junior High competitions if they've competed or will compete in Senior High in the same season.
- 9th grade participation guidelines: Once a student moves to or participates with a senior high team, they are not allowed to play junior high again.

SENIOR HIGH

We use a two-tier format at the Senior High level. Using grades 9-11 enrollment figures (from most current MDE figures), teams have been divided -- 40% in AA and 60% in A -- to compete at the Sub-Regional and Regional. Our region agreed to use this procedure to determine teams advancing to State.

- Divide teams: 60% A, 40% AA.
- The top three (3) A teams advance to State and the top two (2) AA teams advance to State.

Tier AA

- Austin
- Kasson-Mantorville
- LaCrescent-Hokah
- Northfield
- Plainview-Elgin-Millville
- Red Wing
- Rochester Century
- Rochester Mayo
- Winona

Tier A

- Caledonia
- Cannon Falls
- Chatfield
- Dover-Eyota
- Fillmore Central
- Glenville-Emmons
- Goodhue
- Grand Meadow
- Houston
- Kenyon-Wanamingo
- Kingsland

- Lanesboro
- Lewiston-Altura
- Mabel-Canton
- Pine Island
- Rochester Off-Campus
- Rushford-Peterson
- Southland
- Spring Grove
- St. Charles
- Stewartville
- Triton

SENIOR HIGH DATES

- Senior High Round Robin dates are:
 - December 15, 16, 18 (Tues, Wed, Fri)
 - January 11, 12, 13 (Mon, Tues, Wed)
 - February 1, 2, 9 (Mon, Tues, Tues)
 - Sub-Regionals for A: March 18 (Thursday) @ RCTC (Rochester Community and Technical College)
 - Sub-Regionals for AA: March 17 (Wednesday) @ RCTC (Rochester Community and Technical College)
 - Regional for Tier A: March 24 (Tuesday) @ Southeast Service Cooperative
 - Regional for Tier AA: March 25 (Wednesday) @ Southeast Service Cooperative
- (Regionals must be completed by MARCH 29)

SENIOR HIGH STATE COMPETITION

- The State competition will be April 15-16, 2010 (Thursday & Friday) at Cragun's in Brainerd. The two-tier system is used at State. Determination of which schools will be placed in A and AA at State is made after Regionals when all the teams going to State have been determined. **Southeast can send five (5) teams in 2010.**
- The teams competing must pay their own expenses. Number of teams sent from each region is based on previous year's participation. The Southeast Service Cooperative must also send the following persons to State: Regional Coordinator, 2 Computer Operators (students), 2 Judges, 1 Reader

- We pay for lodging and mileage for judges, readers and (*new this year*) computer operators, and request that teams participating at the state event help recruit them. Anyone familiar with Knowledge Bowl can serve in these positions, especially advisors from teams not going to State. Please consider volunteering!
- A state t-shirt design contest is outlined in the handbook. Advisors should inform their students of this contest in case anyone is interested in submitting a design.

FORMAT OF EVENTS, COMPETITIONS

- For Round Robins, both written and oral scores will be included in the final tally. Round Robin competitions will consist of a written test (60 questions with 50 min. limit) *taken first, followed by* 3 oral rounds (30 questions). Junior High teams can have 6 team members take the written test and 5 team members in each oral round. Alternates can sub in after 15 questions during the oral round and/or between oral rounds. (Senior High teams have one less student/team.)
- During Round Robins, scores will be recorded and posted by advisors. After competitions are completed for the month, a copy of all scores will be emailed to advisors and posted on the SSC website. At the end of the season, awards are given to top teams, although the scores have no bearing at the sub-regional or regional.
- Junior High Regional 1 written (60 questions with 50 min. limit) and 4 oral (45 questions)
- Senior High Regional 1 written (60 questions with 50 min. limit) and 5 oral (45 questions)
- Please note: *Advisors should plan to read or judge at Round Robins and Regional competitions. Since we need two adults for every three teams, schools with 3 or more teams will need to supply another adult (parent, teacher, principal) to serve as reader or judge at Sub-Regional or Regional. Schools with fewer teams will be asked, but for schools with 3 or more teams— it is mandatory. (At Round Robins we need at least 1 adult per room, but 2 is best.)*
- Junior High: One set of written questions will be given to each student.
- Senior High: One set of written questions will be given to each team at all events in order to follow the state format.
- *Any extra students (not taking the written test with a team) **MUST** take the written test (either with other “extras” or by themselves.*

AWARDS

- **Junior High**--Certificates are given for participation in Round Robins, Sub-Regionals and Regional competitions. A team trophy and individual medallions will be awarded to the top 5 teams at Regional.
- **Senior High**--Certificates are given for participation in Round Robin competitions, the season and Regional (not all teams compete in Round Robins). Regional: Medallions go to the individual members of the top 5 teams in each tier and a team trophy. Plaques go to the top three teams in each tier for Round Robins.

EXPECTATIONS/STUDENT BEHAVIOR

- Please see Coaches' Handbook for “Code of Conduct – Participant Statement” (*page 11*). We suggest that all teams use this. SSC will not require it or collect it, except for teams advancing to State.
- Usually students are quite well behaved, although we have had some minor vandalism at our facility and off-site. We expect all students to show respect for people and property and pick up after themselves (whether it be at the Southeast Service Cooperative or at another location). We ask advisors and other adults to supervise students.

COSTS/FEEES

Junior High Fees

- MEMBERS: \$265 for the first team, \$240 for each additional team (up \$5/team)
- NON-MEMBERS: \$530 for the first team, \$580 for each additional team (up \$10/team)

Senior High Fees

- MEMBERS: \$355 for the first team, \$295 for each additional team (up \$5/team)
- NON-MEMBERS: \$710 for the first team, \$590 for each additional team (up \$10/team)
Districts will be invoiced after the season starts and the number of teams has been determined.

Other Costs Schools **May** Incur (for planning purposes)

- Local Competition Days
3 half days for Round Robins, 1 full day for Sub-Regionals, 1 full day for Regionals
 - ** Substitute Teacher for Advisor
 - ** Transportation to/from Rochester
 - ** Lunch at Sub-Regionals and Regionals - *Domino's is what we've used previously.*
- State Competition Costs - *2 full days for State*
 - ** Substitute Teacher for Advisor

- ** Transportation to/from Brainerd
- ** Team Expenses - *Hotel Accommodations and Meals*
- ** Expenses for One Extra Adult

EQUIPMENT AND COMPETITION QUESTIONS

EQUIPMENT

Equipment is available through Lakes Country Service Cooperative. The new handheld units (Pocket Box) do not require a laptop. SSC has purchased more of these units to use at competitions. (However, teams will need to bring a set to Sub-Regionals.) The cost of the handheld scoring unit is \$275 each. The same scoring strips are used with this unit. If you need replacement strips, you can order them for \$155 per set of 3.

- Order equipment and software directly from Lakes Country (Monica Thompson, fax 218-739-2459, email: mthompson@lscs.org). Prices and order forms are in the handbook (*page 13-15*).

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Practice questions (used in prior years—not pristine) can be obtained from the Southeast Service Cooperative. Questions from 2008-09 have been copied and also put on a CD, and will be distributed at the Advisors' Meeting.

COMMUNICATION

- Most correspondence will be done via email and posting on the SSC website. All schedules and scores will be emailed to you and will be posted on the website (www.ssc.coop). Click on the Programs tab at the top and select Knowledge Bowl.

OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Academic Lettering in Knowledge Bowl.** The majority of schools give academic letters for Knowledge Bowl. Each school uses different criteria, but criteria mentioned included:
 - Attendance in "x" number of meets
 - Attendance at practice
 - Number of years the student has participated in KB
 - Fundraising efforts
 - Participation at Sub-Regional
- **Participation by Disabled Students.** Knowledge Bowl will allow any student to participate and does not discriminate. Usually a helper/adult can accompany the student and assist whether it be signing, reading aloud, etc. Another region had a blind student participate and was able to work with this. Schools are encouraged to work with the disability, rather than exclude a student. The Minnesota State Academy for the Blind and Deaf has inquired about participating and may attend a competition to observe.
- **In-school Consequences/Discipline of Students.** The question has been asked if we had anything in writing about discipline of students that have been disqualified from a competition. Aside from not allowing them to participate in the remainder of the meet, we do not discipline beyond that. The state coordinator said there is nothing in the KB rules about this. She suggested the advisor carefully study the school's discipline policy and follow that very closely. We hope that administrators support advisors/coaches when they hold students to an appropriate standard of behavior.
- **Cell Phone Rule.** During any competition, all cell phones must be turned off. This is one of the rules that is read prior to the start of the first oral round. Any student who leaves their cell phone on will be disqualified from the remainder of the competition.
- **Reminders** are read to students at the start of the first oral round at each competition.