

2015-16 Knowledge Bowl

The Advisors' Meeting scheduled for September 15, 2015 was cancelled because there were no changes or anything that needed to be discussed. The information below is a summary of what would have been discussed and how the 2015-16 Knowledge Bowl program will be run this year.

Communication with SSC

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Regional Coordinator

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Lakes Country Service Cooperative

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Contact Information Updates

Advisors should update the information SSC has for them, including cell/emergency contact number, your home/cell phone number and any other email addresses we should include. We will use this phone number only in case we need to contact you, after hours (i.e. cancellations, postponements, etc.) or perhaps while you are enroute to a competition. If you would like anyone else from your school (or volunteers) added to our communication list, include their information.

Communication

Most correspondence will be done via email and posted on the SSC website. All schedules and scores will be posted on the website (www.ssc.coop). (Click on the Student Programs tab at the top and select your respective Knowledge Bowl area.) Please bookmark this to your web browser for easy access.

If a competition needs to be postponed (due to weather/late start or closing) SSC will contact the schools/advisors involved. In addition, it will be posted on the website homepage at www.ssc.coop. If there is questionable weather, the website will also give the status of the competition.

"Snow Days" have been built into the Round Robin schedule (see list of dates).

2015-16 Handbook

The new handbooks will be distributed and posted on our website. (There were no changes from 2014-15.) The same handbook is used for junior and senior high. The only difference between junior and senior high is the number of students/team and junior high doesn't have a State competition. Information about ordering equipment, rules and competition format are included in the Handbook (pages 13-14).

2015-16 Dates

- The Round Robin schedules are filling. To be added to the schedule or make changes, email Kirsten. These are posted on the respective websites.
- Senior High Sub-Regionals will take place over four days (two for each tier) to accommodate all teams. If you have a date preference, notify Kirsten.

Coaches Clinic – 10/22/2015 at Resource Training & Solutions

Brochures were mailed and posted on our website. This year's clinic is in St. Cloud. Advisors are encouraged to attend to hear from current, experienced coaches. See the brochure for a list of sessions.

Practice Questions

Questions from previous years can be found at: www.ssc.coop/Page/103 (**keep this link confidential**). **THIS LINK IS FOR ADVISORS ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS!** Questions from the past seven years are available for you to use as you'd like.

Question Reviews

The state coordinator hires a committee of professionals in each subject area to review the questions before they are sent to each Region. Each Region receives the same question sets.

Fees

Junior High-\$280 per team. Schools will be invoiced October 30.
Senior High-\$365 per team. Schools will be invoiced January 8, 2016.
Non-members pay twice this rate.

New this year - Teams withdrawing after the invoice dates will be assessed a \$100 late withdrawal fee.

Competition Format

Determining Tiers for Junior and Senior High will be done using the most current enrollment figures from MDE. The total number of teams are divided in half – half in Tier A and half in Tier AA.

Round Robins

For Round Robins, both written and oral scores will be included in the final tally. Round Robin competitions 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—5 team members take the written and 4 team members compete in oral rounds.) 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 posted on the SSC website. At the end of the season, awards are given to top teams, although the scores have no bearing on the sub-regional or regional.

Please note: Advisors will read or judge at all competitions. Since we require one adult for every three teams, schools with more than 3 teams must supply another adult (parent, teacher, principal) to serve as reader or judge. Schools with fewer teams will be asked and encouraged, but for schools with more than 3 teams—it is mandatory. At Round Robins we need at least 1 adult per room, but 2 is best.

If a school does not abide by this rule, and if there are not enough adults at the Round Robin competition, one or more of their teams may not be able to compete as listed on the schedule. They may need to re-arrange, or sub in students using fewer teams.

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 (consistent with the format used at State).

Any extra students (not taking the written test with a team) **MUST** take the written test (either with other “extras” or by themselves).

A list of “Rules and Reminders” will be read prior to the first oral round at each competition.

Sub-Regional and Regional Formats

Sub-Regional for Junior and Senior will be held the Southeast Service Cooperative. Individuals need to bring their own lunch.

Teams are “frozen” at Sub-Regional. The composition of students on teams must remain the same from Sub-Regional to Regional to State.

Junior High Regional: 1 written (60 questions with 50 min. limit) and 4 oral rounds (45 questions each)

Senior High Regional: 1 written (60 questions with 50 min. limit) and 5 oral rounds (45 questions each)

Junior High Regionals for both tiers will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at SSC.

Senior High Regionals for both tiers will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at SSC.

The top 12 teams from each tier (top six from each Sub-Regional) advance to Regional. Senior High: The top two teams from each tier plus the highest third place team from either tier advance to State.

It is mandatory that teams provide at least one adult per three teams. It is *especially* important to have two officials in each room at Sub-Regionals and Regionals, so schools are encouraged to bring more adults.

Strength of Scoring

The Strength of Scoring method is used at the state meet. Strength of Scoring will be used during Junior High and Senior High Sub-Regional and Regional events. 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.

State Competition - April 13-14, 2016

Student Behavior (Code of Conducts)

Each team is required to submit a Code of Conduct, signed by each student competing in Knowledge Bowl. Teams do not need to be set, just have all students sign the form. Advisors should complete this and bring it to the first competition or fax/email to SSC.

The following rules for students during the competition will be enforced:

- Electronic devices will be collected by advisors prior to the start of the competition
- Students will not be allowed to wear hats.
- Tables must be clear (except for scratch paper and pencils).
- Students must remain quiet and at their table after the written round, until all teams are finished.

A more detailed list of rules/reminders will be read to students prior to the first oral round.

Miscellaneous Information

“Conference” meets

“Conference” meets (outside of the Service Cooperative’s Knowledge Bowl™ programs) can’t technically be called Knowledge Bowl, since it is a trademarked program. If your conference and AD have separate competitions, it needs to be called something else.

SSC cannot provide question sets. Conference meets 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).

Awards

Junior High--Certificates are given for participation in the season, Sub-Regionals and Regional competitions. A team trophy and individual medallions will be awarded to the top 3 teams at each Regional. Plaques go to the top three teams for Round Robins.

Senior High--Certificates are given for participation in the season, Sub-Regional and Regional. Regional: Medallions go to the individual members of the top 3 teams in each tier and a team trophy. Plaques go to the top three teams for Round Robins.

State Meet

The two-tier system is used at State. Determination of which schools will be placed in A and AA at State is made after each region's Regionals when all the teams going to State have been determined. Southeast can send five (5) teams.

The number of teams that each region can send to the State Meet is based on the number of teams sent from each region, based on the previous year's participation. The teams advancing must pay their own expenses.

The Southeast Service Cooperative must send the following persons to State: Regional Coordinator, 2 Computer Operators (students), 2 Judges, 1 Reader. We pay expenses (lodging and mileage) for judges, readers and computer operators, and request that teams participating at the state event help recruit the computer operators. 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. Information will be sent to art teachers. Please mention this at your school.

Reminders

Consistency among advisors/adults has been an issue. Please review the rules (as well as any "helper" you bring) prior to the start of the season.

Competitions will begin promptly.

The following can be found on the SSC website

- 2015-16 Handbook
- 2015-16 Dates
- Student Academic Program Fees
- Round Robin Schedule – Junior High
- Round Robin Schedule – Senior High
- Junior High Tier Listing
- Senior High Tier Listing
- Code of Conduct Form – Junior High
- Code of Conduct Form – Senior High
- Competition Reminders – Junior High
- Competition Reminders – Senior High
- Equipment Order Form (also in Handbook)
- Brochure for Coaches Clinic
- 2015 State Scores and News Release
- List of Top Placing Teams (by year, 1996-97 through 2014-15)
- Knowledge Bowl Participation (2014-15 with statistics back to 1999-2000)
- State Advisory Council Minutes