



PENOHIO

2018-2019
RULES OF TOURNAMENT
COMPETITION

I. Eligibility and Qualifications

A. Schools and Contestants

1. A school may enter up to a maximum of 12 students, but no more than 6 at each divisional competition level.
2. Any student enrolled in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade of a public, parochial, or independent school is eligible to participate in PenOhio Tournaments.
3. Students who are in the 9th or 10th grade may not write at the 11th or 12th grade level. Likewise, any student who is in another grade level may not compete outside their respective division of competition.
4. Contestants must write at designated site, in the designated rooms or sections.
 - a) Writing team coaches are permitted to make special arrangements for contestants to write off site under controlled conditions in advance if the tournament conflicts with the Contestant Sabbath.
 - b) Writing team coaches are permitted to make special arrangements for contestants to write off site under controlled conditions in advance if the Contestant has a disability that would be hindered by attendance at the tournament site. (example: no handicap entrance, no elevator if the writing is conducted on multiple levels)
 - c) Writing teams that request special accommodations must provide the appropriate number of judges at the actual tournament site on the actual date of the tournament.

B. Judges

1. All schools must supply one qualified Judge per grade level team.
2. Qualified Judges must be a certified teacher, or a parent with a college degree.
3. All Judges must be acquainted with the procedure to judge at a PenOhio Tournament. Please be aware that judge training is provided at tournament sites prior to competition.

II. Registration and Participation

A. Schools are required to register their teams by the date specified by PenOhio.

1. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the registrar.

III. Tournaments Participants

A. Contestants

1. Contestants must be accompanied by a teacher/coach/judge who remains on site for the entire tournament.
2. Contestants must bring their own pen. Writing paper will be provided.
3. Contestants are not permitted to have electronic devices in the writing sections including iPhones, iWatches, tablets, cell phones or any similar devices. A contestant who has these devices will be disqualified and be given the default score of 6-75.
4. Contestants are permitted to use a dictionary and/or a thesaurus. **NO OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS ARE ALLOWED.** A contestant who has other printed material may be disqualified and receive a default score of 6-75.
5. A contestant who arrives late to a writing session will be allowed to write in that session, however, they will **NOT** be given extended time.
6. A contestant that does not complete his/her writing in the allotted time, must turn in the writing when time is called.
7. A contestant may not leave the writing section until the judge dismisses the session at the end of the 40 minute time period unless special permission has been granted due to illness or a need to use the restroom.
8. A contestant who cannot complete the competition due to illness, cannot be replaced by an alternate. The contestants remaining rounds will be scored 6-75.

B. Judges

1. Writing team coaches are expected to serve as Judges or in other staff positions.
2. Writing team coaches that serve in alternate positions should provide a trained Judge to judge in their place.

C. Alternate Contestants

1. Alternate contestants may only compete if they are replacing a writer who drops out prior to the first round of writing.
2. Alternate contestants who do not compete, may shadow a teammate for the experience, however, they will not be judged at the tournament.

IV. Gridding

- A. Every effort will be made to assure that each section consists of no more than 6 writers and no fewer than 5 writers.
- B. PenOhio makes every effort to assure that a Judge does not judge contestants from his/her own school.
- C. PenOhio makes every effort to assure that a Judge does not judge the same contestant twice.
- D. A contestant should not write against another contestant from his/her own school.
- E. A contestant should not write against the same other student in more than one round.
- F. It is possible that the above rules may be violated if, at a PenOhio tournament, a small number of schools register.

V. Scoring

- A. A full discussion of tournament scoring can be found in the Coach Manual.
- B. In all tournament settings, the Rank Point conversions are as follows:
 - 1. 1=100
 - 2. 2=95
 - 3. 3=85
 - 4. 4=70
 - 5. 5=60
 - 6. 6=55
- C. A Judge cannot assign the same Rank Points to more than one contestant in a round.
- D. A Judge cannot assign the same Quality Points to more than one contestant in a round.
- E. Each contestant may be judged by two Judges for each round of writing.
- F. Although they are judging the same section of writers, Judges for round 1 and 2 are referred to as non-conferencing judges.
- G. Non-conferencing judges are required to keep their Rank Points within two points, and their Quality Points within five points.
- H. For the third round of writing, Judges are referred to as Conferencing.
- I. Conferencing Judges must agree on both Rank Points and Quality Points for each contestant in the final round.
- J. Winning contestants are determined by the total Rank Points earned throughout the tournament.
- K. Contestant ties will be broken by the total Quality Points earned throughout the entire tournament.

- L. If the tie cannot be broken by Quality Points, the scoring team will check to see if the two writers competed in any section of the tournament. If they did compete, the contestant with the highest score in the round they met in, will be receive the award.
- M. In the event that the tie cannot be broken in one of the two methods above, an independent team of 2 judges who have not previously judged the tied contestants, will read the papers from all three rounds to determine a tie breaker.
- N. If a tie cannot be resolved by any of the above methods, a duplicate award will be presented.
- O. Winning grade level teams, are determined by the highest combined total Rank Points.
- P. Ties for winning school teams will be broken by the highest combined total Quality Points.
- Q. County Award Winners will be determined by the highest Rank Point of the two grade level teams combined. (Ties broken by Quality Points)

VI. Awards

- A. If the tournament ends with a tie either in individual awards, or team awards, a duplicate award will be given.
- B. PenOhio will award First, Second and Third Place individual awards to each division level (7, 8, 9/10 & 11/12).
- C. PenOhio will award First, Second, and Third Place team awards to each grade level.
- D. PenOhio will award one Grand Champion Trophy in Ohio for the highest total combined Rank Point Score in 7/8 and 9-12 divisions.
- E. Each member of each writing team will receive a certificate of participation.

VII. IV: Plagiarism

- A. Plagiarism is the act of using another person's words or ideas without giving credit to that person (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). PenOhio does not condone plagiarism and will impart the following penalties if plagiarism is proved beyond a reasonable doubt:
1. The writer will be disqualified from the round of writing and a score of 6 Rank Points and 75 Quality Points will be assigned.
 2. The writer will forfeit any awards.
 3. If the team wins award because the plagiarized work was included, the team will forfeit their award to the next lowest team and awards will be adjusted accordingly.
- B. Self plagiarism is the deliberate act of using the same concept for a story for more than one round of writing. Any writer who self plagiarizes, will be disqualified from all rounds the plagiarism occurs. The writer will receive the default score of 6 Rank Points and 75 Quality Points.
- C. If any plagiarism or self plagiarism detected after the tournament is over, the Director will contact the Writing Team Coach and/or the School Administration and recall any awards.