

AMERICAN QUIZBOWL LEAGUE

OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

Last Updated July 1, 2020

These Eligibility Rules will be used at all AQBL-sponsored events. Others using these rules may make any modifications as they see fit.

As with our other Rules, these Eligibility Rules were heavily based on those used by NAQT, LLC.

1. Definitions

- 1.1. A Competition Year shall be defined as a Year beginning on August 1 and ending the following July 31; for instance, the 2016-2017 Competition Year began August 1, 2016 and concluded July 31, 2017, after which the 2017-2018 Competition Year commenced.
- 1.2. A School is an accredited educational institution offering at least one Grade between Kindergarten and Twelfth, inclusive, located primarily on a single physical Campus, that Students typically attend full-time.
 - 1.2.1. Should a school have multiple campuses, the School shall be treated as a single school at the AQBL's discretion.
 - 1.2.2. Should a school have no Campus, whether a Homeschool Collective or an Online school, it shall be eligible to compete in AQBL events once registered. Schools of this sort can register by contacting any Administrator of the AQBL.
 - 1.2.3. All types of schools are eligible. This includes, but is not limited to, High Schools, Secondary Schools, Middle Schools, Junior High Schools, Junior/Senior High Schools, Combined Schools, Public Schools, Private Schools, Magnet Schools, Charter Schools, Military Academies, Parochial Schools, Religious Schools, Elementary Schools, Primary Schools, Homeschool Collectives, and Online Schools.
 - 1.2.4. Other types of schools with students of an appropriate age should Register with the AQBL, who shall determine eligibility.
- 1.3. A Squad is the set of players with an affiliation at a particular School for a given Competition Year.
- 1.4. A Team is a subset of a school's Squad that will compete as a unit at a given Event.

2. Individuals

- 2.1. An Individual student is eligible to compete at High School level Events if he or she is in a grade between Kindergarten and Twelfth, inclusive, as of the day of the Event.
 - 2.1.1. An Individual who graduates from 12th grade is still eligible to play for the rest of that Competition Year.
 - 2.1.2. Individuals wishing to compete at High School tournaments who are not classified by standard American grades must not have turned 19 years old as of March 31 during the competition year—in other words, must still be 18 or younger as of March 31.
 - 2.1.3. Individuals in GED programs are not eligible.

- 2.1.4. The standards in 2.1 and 2.1.2 are mutually exclusive; that is, a player in the 12th grade is not bound by the age requirement, and vice versa. Should a Student be required to repeat a Grade or Grades in High School, that player retains their eligibility so long as they are duly enrolled.
 - 2.2. Students may only compete at Events for schools with which they have an Affiliation.
 - 2.2.1. A Student establishes an Affiliation with a school for a given Competition Year by enrolling in an academic term the majority of whose days fall within that Competition Year.
 - 2.2.2. A Student establishes an affiliation with a Homeschool Collective for a given competition year by being taught by members of that collective over a period of at least 90 days that fall within that competition year.
 - 2.2.3. A Player with affiliations at multiple schools may compete for all such schools during a competition year, but may only compete for a single school at any given Event.
 - 2.2.3.1. Such a Player may be precluded from attending some tournaments due to identical or overlapping question sets.
 - 2.3. Any Individual subject to a Ban by the AQBL shall be precluded from participation at any event directly sponsored by the AQBL, irrespective of any other provision in these rules.
 3. By default, Tournaments will be assumed to follow these eligibility rules without further restriction. Should a tournament deviate from these rules, such a change must be clearly announced in advance.
 4. Responsibility
 - 4.1. At all Events using these eligibility rules, Players are responsible for knowing and following them.
 - 4.2. The Person who registers a Team for an Event, as well as the Team Coach, are responsible for ensuring that all players on the Team in question comply with these eligibility rules.
 - 4.3. If a School is found to have used Ineligible Players, the AQBL may take actions that also affect active players, such as disqualifying results or rescinding invitations.
 5. Requests for Exceptions to these rules or Clarifications thereof must be received by an Administrator of the AQBL at least 14 days prior to the first relevant event. Retroactive requests shall be ignored. Such a request must come from the Player, their Parent(s) or legal Guardians, or a Coach of the Squad.