

National Challenge Rules

General Rules

1. Students participating in a CHEMICAL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (CEF) NATIONAL YOU BE THE CHEMIST CHALLENGE competition (Challenge) must qualify under the following requirements:
 - They must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before April 1, 2008.
 - They must not reach the age of 15 on or before September 1, 2008.
 - They must have won, placed first runner-up, or alternate in their Local and/or State Challenge in the same academic year as the National Challenge competition in which they wish to compete.
 - They must not have been disqualified at any level of the Challenge competition in the same academic year as the National Challenge competition in which they wish to compete.
 - They must not have been declared the champion of any previous National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge competition.
2. The official source for all answers will be found in the National Challenge Study Guide. The study guide will be posted on the CEF Web site on May 5, 2008. Participants can find the information on the 2008 National Challenge section of the Web site, <http://www.chemed.org/08NationalChall.html>. Hard copies will also be mailed to each participant.
3. The National Challenge will take the form of Rounds (explanations of each type of Round follows). Individual questions shall not appear more than once in a competition. As the participants answer a question, the judges (using the electronic scoring system when applicable) will record correct and incorrect answers for each participant.
4. At the end of each Round, the judges (using the electronic scoring system when applicable) will tally the number of correct and incorrect answers from each participant. The participant(s) with the least number of correct answers will be eliminated from the competition. At the conclusion of each Preliminary Round, two participants will be eliminated. At the conclusion of each Semi-final Round, one participant will be eliminated.

Round Number	Round Type	Number of Participants
1	Preliminary Round	12
2	Preliminary Round	10
3	Preliminary Round	8
4	Preliminary Round	6
5	Semi-final Round	4
6	Semi-final Round	3
7	Final Round	2

Please note: Lightning Rounds may take place among any number of participants following any Preliminary or Semi-final Round.

5. If any number of participants has the same lowest number of correct answers at the end of any Round (that would eliminate more than the designated number of participants for that Round), a tie-breaker (see rule 5 under Preliminary Rounds) and, if necessary, a Lightning Round should be used for those students to determine who is eliminated. If none of the participants in the competition during any Round answer a question correctly or none answer incorrectly, all participants will be entered into a tie-breaker, followed by a Lightning Round, if necessary.

For example: At the end of the first Preliminary Round, if four participants answered two questions incorrectly and the other eight students answered only one question incorrectly (and no initial tie-breaker is applicable), the four participants that answered two questions incorrectly shall enter a Lightning Round to determine which two participants will be eliminated. Likewise, if one participant answered one question incorrectly and the other eleven participants answered all questions correctly (none incorrect); the participant that answered one question incorrectly will be eliminated from that Round. The remaining eleven participants will enter a Lightning Round to determine which participant will be the second eliminated participant for that Round.

6. CEF's selected judges shall be in complete control of the Challenge competition. If there are any irregularities during the competition, the judges will rule on the result and continuation of the competition based on the rules established by CEF. All appeals must be made immediately following the conclusion of a Round and prior to the start of the next Round. The judges' majority decision shall be final on all questions.
7. **All judges' decisions are final.**

Preliminary Rounds

1. Participants will sit on the stage in a pre-determined order. Participants will have the opportunity to answer 15 questions per Round before any eliminations. Each participant, using an electronic key pad, will respond to every question at the same time.
2. The participants will be able to view the question and the possible answers (in multiple-choice format) on a screen as the moderator reads the question and multiple-choice answers aloud. There will be a **20-second** time limit enforced by the judges, except as noted for certain questions.
3. The judges, using feedback from the electronic system, will keep track of the number of correct and incorrect answers for each participant.
4. At the end of each Preliminary Round, the two participants with the lowest number of correct answers will be eliminated. If there is a tie between those with the lowest score (that would eliminate more than two participants from the competition), a tie-breaker will be used.
5. As the tie-breaker, judges will tally the total number of correct answers in all previous rounds (excluding Lightning Rounds). Among the participants entered into the tie-breaker, those with the least number of correct answers overall will be eliminated.
6. If there is still a tie, the tied participants will participate in a Lightning Round to determine who advances to the next Round (see Lightning Round rules on Page 3). Tie-breakers/Lightning Rounds will only take place between those with the same score.

7. After each Round and any necessary Lightning Rounds, there will be a short break, during which the judges will tally scores and announce which participants will continue on in the contest.
8. When the number of participants is narrowed to four, the Semi-final Rounds begin (see rules for Semi-final Rounds below).

Semi-final Rounds

1. At this point, the competition assumes an oral format and participants will no longer be using the electronic system. Participants will remain in their pre-determined order. Following the pre-determined order, each participant, in turn, will be asked to answer a question. Each participant will answer a different question, except during Lightning Rounds (see Lightning Round rules on Page 3). For multiple-choice questions, participants must state the letter and the full answer.
2. The participants will be able to view the question and the possible answers (in multiple-choice format) on a screen as the moderator reads the question and multiple-choice answers aloud. The participant may ask the moderator to repeat the question or multiple-choice selections one additional time. There will be a 15-second time limit enforced by the judges, except as noted for certain questions.
3. Each participant will have the opportunity to answer five questions per Round before there are any eliminations. The judges will keep track of the number of correct and incorrect answers for each participant.
4. At the end each Semi-final Round, the participant with the lowest number of correct answers will be eliminated. If there is a tie between those with the lowest score (that would eliminate more than one participants from the competition), a tie-breaker will be used.
5. As the tie-breaker, judges will tally the total number of correct answers in all previous regular rounds. Among the participants entered into the tie-breaker, the participant with the least number of correctly answered questions will be eliminated.
6. Please review rules 6-7 of the Preliminary Rounds (Page 2).
7. When the number of participants is narrowed to two, the Final Round begins. (See rules for Final Round below.)

Final Round

1. Please review rules 1-2 of the Semi-final Rounds (Page 2). Participants will remain in their pre-determined order, answering questions in turn.
2. Each participant will have the opportunity to answer three questions. The judges will keep track of correct and incorrect answers for each participant.
3. After each participant has been asked three questions, judges will tally the number of correct and incorrect answers. The participant with the highest number of correct answers will be declared National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge Champion.
4. If both participants have the same number of correct answers, the Final Round will continue with each participant, in turn, answering three new questions. This process will continue until a champion is declared.

5. If one participant answers the first two of his/her three questions correctly and the other participant answers the first two of his/her three questions incorrectly, the judges will halt the competition and the participant that answered correctly twice will be declared the champion.
6. If a champion has not been declared by 12:30 p.m., the judges will tally the scores of the participants to determine the champion. The participants' scores and their resulting place (champion, runner-up, etc.) in the competition will be determined based on the number of total correct answers throughout all regular Rounds (excludes Lightning Round scores) of the competition.

Lightning Rounds

Preliminary Lightning Rounds

1. In the event of a Lightning Round, each participant (in that Lightning Round) shall be given the same question to answer. All participants will be able to view the question and all possible multiple-choice answers (if applicable) on a screen while the moderator reads the question aloud.
2. Each participant will be given a small dry-erase board to write his/her response. The moderator will read the question a second time, and the participants will have 15 seconds (unless otherwise noted) to write his/her answer. For multiple-choice questions, participants must write the letter and the full answer. After 15 seconds has passed, the participants will be asked to state their answers one at a time and show their written answer to the judges. Participants must write in legible print. If the judges deem that a participant's written answer does not reflect his/her verbal answer, that answer will be considered incorrect.
3. In a Lightning Round, those answering correctly and those answering incorrectly will be divided accordingly. Participants in either group may be asked additional Lightning Round questions based on the number of open positions in the next regular set of Rounds. If one or more participants answer incorrectly when enough other participants answer correctly to fill the next Round, those participants who answered incorrectly will be automatically eliminated. The Lightning Round will continue among those who answered correctly. Likewise, if one or more participants answer incorrectly but not enough answered correctly to fill the next round, those participants who answered correctly will automatically move on to the next regular Round. The Lightning Round will continue among those who answered incorrectly to fill the remaining open position(s).

For example: If five participants tie for two open spots, and three participants answer the first Lightning Round question correctly, the two participants that answered incorrectly will be eliminated. The three participants who answered correctly will be asked the next Lightning Round question. Similarly, if only one participant answers correctly, he/she will move on to the next regular Round and the four participants that answered incorrectly will be asked another Lightning Round question to determine who will fill the remaining open positions. This process will continue until all open positions have been filled.

4. If all participants answer correctly or all answer incorrectly, they will be asked another question.

Semi-Final Lightning Rounds

5. In the event of a Lightning Round, each participant (in that Lightning Round) shall be given the same question to answer. All participants will be able to view the question and

all possible multiple-choice answers (if applicable) on a screen while the moderator reads the question aloud.

6. Each participant will be given a small dry-erase board to write his/her response. The moderator will read the question a second time, and the participants will have 15 seconds (unless otherwise noted) to write his/her answer. For multiple-choice questions, participants must write the letter **and the full answer**. After 15 seconds has passed, the participants will be asked to state their answers one at a time and show their written answer to the judges. Participants must write in legible print. If the judges deem that a participant's written answer does not reflect his/her verbal answer, that answer will be considered incorrect.
7. Please review rules 3-4 of the Preliminary Lightning Round rules.

*Please note, these rules are based on twelve participants at the National YBTC Challenge. Should that number vary, CEF reserves the right to change the rules accordingly.