

Rules for 2010 “You Be the Chemist” Illinois State Challenge

Contestants: 3 contestants each from 5 regional competitions
1 additional contestant will be chosen from among all alternates that are present during a preliminary “play in” round, as described below.

Seating - Seating on stage will be by random draw. Each student will draw a seat number when they register.

Regular Rounds – The first two rounds will consist of twenty questions that are projected on the screen and read by the moderator. Subsequent rounds will contain ten questions. For each of the questions, each contestant will choose the correct answer card from the set of four that have been provided and place it face down on the table in front of him/her away from the other cards, then raise a hand to indicate that he/she is done. After all hands have been raised, or after the timer indicates that “time is up” (generally after 15 seconds, or longer on some questions, as indicated), the moderator will request that all other cards remain down, and each contestant will hold up the answer card that he/she has selected so that the judges can see their answers. Please be sure to hold the cards up high toward the audience so that the scorers can clearly see the response. Continue to hold up your card until the scorers signal that they are done recording your results. The moderator will then reveal the correct response and it will be shown on the screen.

After each round of ten questions there will be a short break while the scores are totaled. Contestants may stretch and leave the stage. The four contestants with the lowest scores will be dropped for the next round, and the remaining students will be called back up on stage. In the event of a tie, the total questions answered correctly for the entire contest will be used as a tie-breaker. If there is still a tie, the lightning round procedure below will be used to settle any ties before proceeding to the next round. Thus, after Round 1 twelve contestants will move on to Round 2; after Round 2 eight contestants will move on to Round 3; and after Round 3 the field will be reduced to four finalists. At this point contestants will be eliminated one by one, using the lightning round procedure, until only two contestants remain to vie for the chance to represent Illinois in the National Challenge in Philadelphia on June 18-19. The second place contestant will be an alternate in the event that the winner is unable to attend the national competition.

Final Round - When the field is reduced to the final two players, we will continue with a series of single questions addressed to both contestants and answered using the cards. If one contestant misses, the other contestant must answer one more question correctly to be declared the winner. If he/she misses the next question, both players continue on with another question. This process repeats until one player misses and the other answers that question and one additional question correctly.

Lightning Round Procedure - In the event that two or more contestants are tied for the remaining open positions in the next round at any elimination point, the following Lightning Round procedure will be used to determine who continues on in the competition. Single questions will be asked, one at a time, and all contestants will answer in the same way as in the general rounds.

Those answering correctly and those answering incorrectly will be divided accordingly. Contestants 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 contestants answer incorrectly when enough other contestants answer correctly to fill the next round, those contestants who answered incorrectly will be automatically eliminated. The Lightning Round will continue among those who answered correctly. Likewise, if one or more contestants answer incorrectly but not enough answered correctly to fill the next round, those contestants who answered correctly will automatically move on to the next regular set of rounds. The Lightning Round will continue among those who answered incorrectly to fill the remaining open position(s).

For example, if five people tied for two open spots, and three contestants answer the first Lightning Round question correctly, the two contestants that answered incorrectly will be eliminated, and the three contestants who answered correctly will be asked the next Lightning Round question. Similarly, if only one contestant answers correctly, he/she will move on to the next regular set of rounds and the four contestants 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.

“Play in” Procedure for Alternates – If any of a region’s three selected finalists fails to show up for the competition, the absent representative’s spot will be filled by the alternate from the same region. If no alternate is available, that position, as well as one additional open position will be filled by a “play in round” to be held before the start of the general competition. All available alternates will be seated on stage. One round of ten questions will be asked to all alternates. If there is a tie at the end of the play-in round, the tied individuals will be asked additional questions following the lightning round procedure until finalists are selected to fill all open positions in the 16-contestant field for the main competition.

General Rules

Students participating in a Challenge competition must qualify under the following requirements:

- They must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before April 1, 2010.
- They must not reach the age of 15 on or before September 1, 2010.
- 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.

The official source for all answers will be found in the Challenge Study Guide. Challenge competition questions are based on an understanding of the Study Guide material, often requiring students to apply the information to both familiar and unfamiliar situations. For this competition, questions are derived from the Study Guide (basic) and Study Guide (intermediate) as posted on the Students section of the CEF Web site, www.chemed.org, on the Study Materials page.

The designated Challenge judges for a competition 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. The judges' majority decision shall be final on all questions.

Appeals - If at the end of any round a contestant feels that they were incorrectly judged to have answered a question wrong or that the judges did not tally their scores correctly, the student (not a parent or teacher) should approach the head judge and register an appeal before the next round starts. The judges will then review the disputed question or recheck the scores to resolve the appeal. If necessary, the judges may call a short break to review the appeal. No appeals may be made after the competition has moved to the next round.