

# 2016 National Challenge Rules



National Challenge • National Challenge

National Challenge participants and attendees must review and comply with the Chemical Educational Foundation's® (CEF) 2016 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Rules and 2016 National Challenge Format.

## A. Participation Requirements

Students participating in the 2016 National Challenge competition must meet the following requirements:

1. They must be in grades 5-8, and must **not** pass beyond grade 8 on or before April 1, 2016.
  - i. An academic classification for the participant above grade 8 must **not** have been declared to any entity for any purpose by the participant, their parent/guardian, or a school official acting on the participant's behalf.
2. They must **not** reach the age of 15 before July 1, 2016.
3. They must have won, placed first runner-up, or have been designated as an alternate in their State Challenge in the same academic year as the National Challenge in which they are to compete.
4. They must **not** have been disqualified at any level of the Challenge competition in the same academic year as the National Challenge in which they are to compete.
5. They must **not** have been declared the Champion of any previous National Challenge.
6. They must **not** have participated in the Challenge program for more than four years.
7. Participants must be present during the entire National Challenge competition and all related National Challenge events in order to receive their prizes.
  - a. If extenuating circumstances prevent a participant from being present for a particular portion of the National Challenge competition or related events, CEF should be notified immediately. Upon notifying CEF, the awarding of prizes to that participant will be at the discretion of CEF and the National Challenge Judges and Officials.

Any participant who is not in compliance with any of the above participation requirements may be disqualified at any time and may be required to forfeit the prizes, title, and other benefits awarded to the participant as a result of his/her participation in the National Challenge.

**B. Study Materials**

CEF will provide study materials to assist participants in preparing for the National Challenge. These study materials will be posted on CEF's website ([www.chemed.org](http://www.chemed.org)) on April 21, 2016 and include the *Passport to Science Exploration*, periodic tables, and other reference materials.

1. Questions are largely derived from information contained in CEF's study materials but are **not** restricted to this information. Participants are encouraged to seek additional examples and explanations of chemistry concepts from outside resources, as questions often require participants to connect concepts and apply their knowledge of chemistry to both familiar and unfamiliar situations.
2. Study materials and related reference materials are not permitted at the competition venue. Any participant seen with any study materials or related reference materials at the competition venue may be disqualified from the competition. CEF will provide participants with periodic tables for certain rounds of the competition.

**C. National Challenge Judges and Officials**

CEF's selected National Challenge Judges and Officials will be in complete control of the National Challenge competition.

1. If there are any irregularities during the competition, the Judges will rule on the result and the continuation of the competition based on these 2016 National Challenge Rules and the 2016 National Challenge Format, while accounting for any mitigating or collateral circumstances.
2. Judges will rule on appeals by a majority decision. The Judges will have a copy of relevant study materials and other reference materials to review while making their decision. Please refer to section D for more information about appeals.
3. Officials will track and calculate the number of correct and incorrect answers for each participant.
4. Judges and Officials will observe participant and audience conduct throughout the competition. Please refer to section E for more information regarding conduct.
5. All decisions made by National Challenge Judges and Officials are final.

**D. Appeals**

If a participant would like to appeal a question during the competition, s/he must follow the rules as listed below:

1. Only participants who have participated in a round may appeal questions or answer choices in that round. Once a participant has been eliminated s/he will not be permitted to raise an appeal for any questions or answer choices. For example, if there is Tiebreaker Round, only those participating in that Tiebreaker Round are permitted to appeal any questions or answer choices in that round.
2. Participants may not consult any other individual prior to making their appeal.

3. Participants must appeal directly and immediately to the Judges following the conclusion of the round that included the question or answer choice they would like to appeal. This must be done prior to the announcement of any eliminations. Any appeals made after this time will not be considered by the Judges.
  - a. If a participant would like to appeal a question during a Tiebreaker Round or the Single Elimination Championship Round, s/he must appeal to the Judges immediately following that question and prior to the announcement of any elimination.
4. To appeal, a participant should raise his/her appeal card and wait to be acknowledged by the Judges. Once acknowledged, the participant should approach the Judges and address them privately. If necessary, the Judges will call a short break to review the appeal.
5. Judges will rule on appeals by a majority decision.
6. The result of each appeal will be reported privately to the participant making the appeal. In addition, the results of all appeals will be announced to the audience by the Judges prior to the start of the next round or the next Tiebreaker question.
7. All National Challenge Judges' decisions are final.

#### E. Conduct

The conduct of all participants and audience members will be observed throughout the National Challenge by the Judges, Officials, and the CEF staff.

1. Participants must follow the rules of conduct throughout the National Challenge as listed below:
  - a. Participants are expected to act with integrity and courtesy throughout the event. Participants who display any behavior deemed distracting, questionable, or dishonest may be disqualified from the competition.
  - b. Participants should not talk to one another regarding competition content while the competition is in progress or during competition breaks.
  - c. Cell phones and other electronic devices are **not** permitted to be in participants' possession during the competition, including during competition breaks.
  - d. Once eliminated, participants will join the audience and are expected to exhibit the same conduct expected of audience members. Participants should remain in the audience throughout the duration of the competition.
2. Audience members must follow the rules of conduct throughout the National Challenge as listed below:
  - a. Any audience member deemed to be exhibiting distracting, questionable, or dishonest behavior will be asked to leave the competition venue.
  - b. Any behavior displayed by an audience member that is perceived as giving an unfair advantage to a participant is grounds for the disqualification of that participant.

- c. Audience members may not approach the Judges or Officials in regards to the competition at any point during any National Challenge event.
- d. Audio and/or video recording and photography are **not** permitted while a competition round is in progress.
- e. Writing materials may **not** be used in the competition venue. All electronic devices should be silenced and put away once in the competition venue.
- f. Proper, courteous behavior is expected (e.g., turn off cell phones, no talking, etc.).
- g. No one should enter the competition venue once a round has begun. Audience members should wait until the end of a round to enter or exit the theater.

#### F. Disability Guidelines

A participant who is identified as having a physical impairment, which substantially limits one or more of the participant's major life activities, may require reasonable accommodation to participate in the National Challenge. Requests for accommodation at the National Challenge should be sent to CEF at least 30 days prior to the event.