

# 2019-2020 *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Official Rules: School and Regional Levels

The 2019-2020 *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Official Rules pertain to the school and regional levels of the competition. CEF will provide separate rules for the national level of the competition.

## A. Participation Requirements

To participate in the 2019-2020 *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® cycle, participants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a student in grades 5, 6, 7, or 8, and must not pass beyond grade 8 on or before April 1, 2020. 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. Not have reached the age of 15 before July 1, 2020.
3. Not compete in a Challenge competition in which their parent, legal guardian, or other family member is a Challenge Organizer, Judge, or moderator.
4. Participate through their school, homeschool association, or other CEF-approved student group ("school").
5. Compete at the Regional Challenge competition location assigned to their school.
6. Not attend any Regional Challenge competitions other than those in which they are participating during the current school year.
7. Enter the regional and national levels of competition in the same school year in which they qualified from the school level of competition.
8. Not have been declared the winner of a previous National Challenge competition.

Any participant not in compliance with any of the eligibility requirements above shall be disqualified. Disqualified participants shall be required to forfeit prizes, title, and any benefits awarded to the participant as a result of his/her participation in the Challenge.

## B. Structure and Participant Advancement

The Challenge timeline (“Challenge cycle”) begins in the fall with site and school registration and concludes with national finalists competing at an on-site event in June. The Challenge cycle consists of the following levels of competition:

### 1. School Level

Students individually take a multiple-choice test (also called the Challenge Qualifier) provided by CEF in their classroom and team members’ answers are averaged to determine each team’s score.

- i. Prior to taking the Qualifier, participants must form teams of four students and inform the School Coordinator of their team’s composition.
- ii. Using CEF’s Advancement Calculator, Regional Challenge slots will be proportionally allocated based on the number of teams that take the Qualifier at each school. At least one team from each school will be invited to the next level of competition.

### 2. Regional Level

Qualifying teams compete at Regional Challenges where they collaboratively answer timed, short-answer questions. The winning team from each Regional Challenge advances to the national level. \*

- i. Regional Challenges are organized according to geographic regions determined by CEF and Challenge Organizers, often counties/boroughs/parishes.
- ii. A minimum of 16 and a maximum of 60 participants will be invited to each Regional Challenge.

\* If a state has only one Regional Challenge, the top two teams from that Challenge will advance to the national level. If a state has more than one Regional Challenge, one team from each of the Regional Challenges in that state will advance to the national level if 10 teams or fewer participate at the Regional Challenge. If more than 10 teams participate at a Regional Challenge in a state with more than one Regional Challenge, the top two teams from that Regional Challenge will advance to the national level.

### 3. National Level

Advancing teams from each Regional Challenge create a video exploring the role of chemistry in their community.

- i. Videos are evaluated by a panel of judges, and the top video from each state is recognized on the CEF website.
- ii. The top 10 teams, selected from those recognized in each state, participate in an on-site competition in Houston, TX, where they are evaluated onsite by a panel of judges on their video creation process, explored topics, and overall knowledge of scientific concepts addressed in the video. The top teams receive prizes and recognition.

### C. Challenge Organizers

Regional Challenges require at least one volunteer to serve as the Challenge Organizer. Challenge Organizers are responsible for coordinating all aspects of student participation and competition logistics. Organizers must sign the Organizer Agreement, be approved by CEF, and be at least 18 years old.

Organizers are responsible for registering their Regional Challenge on the CEF website and School Coordinators are responsible for registering their school for their Regional Challenge on the CEF website. Each Challenge Organizer must confirm participation data for each registered school.

Challenge Organizers are required to enforce the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Official Rules at all levels of competition.

### D. Study Materials & Content

Study materials and supporting information for participants are available on the CEF website. Participants are encouraged to review these study materials, including the periodic table, to prepare for each level of the Challenge competition. Participants should review the information on the periodic table and be familiar with using the periodic table to determine additional information about an element or a set of elements.

CEF provides all competition questions and corresponding answers for the school and regional levels of competition. Challenge competition questions are largely derived from information contained in CEF's study materials but are not limited to this information. Questions are based on an overall understanding of chemistry, general science concepts, and the relationships among various concepts.

Study materials and competition questions and answers are the intellectual property of CEF, and any copyright notice displayed on the materials and content shall not be removed. The study materials and competition questions may not be altered or reordered. Questions and answers are to be used only for competitions and are not to be distributed for any other reason. Parents/guardians of Challenge participants may not be involved in disseminating the Challenge Qualifier or Challenge questions, judging, or scoring the competition, or any other content-related or judging aspect of the competition. Improper use of Challenge competition questions or content is grounds for disqualification of a single participant or a Challenge site.

### E. Challenge Qualifier

The Challenge Qualifier should be administered and graded in the format deemed appropriate by the Organizer, provided it meets the following requirements:

1. The Challenge Qualifier must be administered at a public venue.
2. Participants must form a team of four prior to taking the Challenge Qualifier.
3. Participants taking the Challenge Qualifier must be enrolled at the school administering the Challenge Qualifier.

4. The Challenge Qualifier must not be distributed to participants or others at any point outside of the test session itself and participants may not keep copies of the Challenge Qualifier.
5. Participants must complete the Challenge Qualifier individually and adhere to any other standards set by the Organizer or educator who is administering the Challenge Qualifier.
6. The Challenge Qualifier must be scored using the CEF-provided answer key and the individual scores for all members of a team must be combined and averaged. Participants will only receive their team's averaged score and will not see their individual score.
7. The Challenge Qualifier may only contain questions supplied by CEF for the 2019-2020 Challenge cycle. Questions may not be altered or reordered.

#### **F. Regional Challenge Competitions**

Regional Challenges must meet the following requirements:

1. Regional Challenge competitions may only use questions supplied by CEF for the 2019-2020 Challenge cycle.
2. Questions may not be altered and must be presented in the order CEF provides.
3. Answers should only be scored using the scoring key provided by CEF.
4. Questions must be simultaneously displayed to the participants and audience during the competition.
5. A moderator will state each question once. Questions will not be repeated, unless requested to do so by the Judges.
6. Teams will have limited time to provide their answer. Teams will be made aware of the time limit for each question.
7. Teams will submit their answers using answer sheets provided by CEF.
8. Teams must finish answering the question in the allotted time.
9. The moderator will read the correct answer once time expires and all answers are collected.
10. Judges will begin scoring team responses as soon as all responses have been collected for each question.
11. Winning team(s) will be determined at the end of the competition based on team scores.
12. If more than one team has the same score, the tiebreaker procedure as outlined in the rules must be used.
13. After team eliminations are announced, all scores are final.

A Challenge that fails to meet any of the requirements listed above may result in the Challenge site and/or Organizer being prohibited from participating in the future.

**G. Format**

All Regional Challenges must follow the format detailed in the chart below:

Round	Number of Questions	Number of Teams	Scoring
Preliminary	10	All Teams	Cumulative
Intermediate	10		
Semifinal	10		
Championship	10		
		<b>Conclusion:</b> The team(s) with the highest scores are identified and advance to the national level of the competition.	

A five-minute break will follow each round.

**Regional Challenge Tiebreakers:**

In the event of a tie at the conclusion of the championship round, Regional Challenges must use the procedures below to determine which team(s) advance to the national level of the Challenge competition.

1. Teams with tied cumulative scores (from all preceding rounds) are differentiated by combined scores from the championship round only.
2. If a tie persists, one representative from each of the tied teams will answer the CEF multiple-choice questions one by one until the tie is broken.
  - a. If a tie persists after using all the tiebreaker questions, contact CEF for further instructions.

**H. Judges**

Regional Challenge Organizers must designate at least one competition Judge for every five participating teams. Judges' responsibilities include:

1. Ensuring the competition complies with all rules.
2. Scoring team answers using the scoring key for each round, tracking total team scores throughout the competition, and calculating team eliminations at the end of the competition.
3. Announcing competition results.

All Judges' decisions are final.

## I. Appeals

Teams may appeal competition questions. Judges determine the outcome of all appeals. All Judges' decisions are final. An appeal must meet the following requirements:

1. Participants may not consult anyone outside of their team prior to making their appeal.
2. Only one participant per team may represent their team in an appeal.
3. Participant may only raise an appeal after a round in which they participated. Participants may not raise an appeal after they have been eliminated.
4. Participants must appeal directly to the Judges immediately following a round and prior to the start of the next round.
5. Judges will report the result of each appeal privately to the appealing participant and then to the audience prior to the start of the next round.
6. The appeal process during a tiebreaker round is at the discretion of the Challenge Organizer and/or Judges.

CEF does not exercise operational supervision over Regional Challenge competitions and will not render judgments relating to the outcome of these competitions.

## J. Participant & Audience Conduct

Participants and audience members must comply with the following rules of conduct. Violation of these requirements may result in a participant's or team's disqualification from the Challenge.

1. Participants
  - i. Participants may only talk to members of their team regarding competition questions and content during the competition. Participants may not talk to participants who are not on their team or audience members regarding the Challenge Qualifier questions or competition content during the event.
  - ii. Participants may not possess cell phones or other electronic devices while the Challenge Qualifier or Regional Challenge competition is in progress or during breaks in between rounds.
  - iii. Participants may not have CEF study materials or related reference materials while the Challenge Qualifier or Regional Challenge competition is in progress or during breaks, except periodic tables distributed to participants for competition purposes.
  - iv. Participants may only use scrap paper provided by Challenge Organizers. Participants may not use the scrap paper to communicate with participants on different teams or audience members.
  - v. Any participant behavior deemed by the Organizer or Judges to be distracting, questionable, or dishonest is grounds for disqualification from the Challenge.

## 2. Audience

- i. Audience members may not disturb the competition or participants at any time.
- ii. Audience members may not approach the Judges at any point during the competition. Audience members may not approach the Judges about competition scoring or any competition rulings before or after the competition.
- iii. Audience members may not in any way record, disclose, or publish any competition questions. Audio and video recording are not permitted. Photographs are allowed as long as no part of competition questions appear in the image.
- iv. Any audience member deemed to be exhibiting distracting, questionable, or dishonest behavior will be asked to leave the competition. Any behavior that is deemed to be dishonest or perceived as giving an unfair advantage to a participant or team is grounds for disqualification of that participant or team.

## K. Disability Guidelines

A participant who is identified as having a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of the participant's major life activities may request reasonable accommodation to participate in the Challenge. Requests for accommodation at a Regional Challenge must be sent to the Challenge Organizer. To make arrangements for reasonable accommodations, the Organizer must be notified at least 14 days prior to the Challenge Qualifier or at least 30 days prior to the Regional Challenge event, as applicable, in which the participant wishes to compete. Requests for reasonable accommodation at the national level should be sent to CEF at least 30 days prior to the national event at which that participant is qualified to compete.

For questions, please contact CEF at [challenge@chemed.org](mailto:challenge@chemed.org).