

The 2023-2024 *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Official Rules pertain to both the in-person and virtual tracks. By participating in the Challenge, you agree to both the in-person and virtual rules.

## A. Participation Requirements

To participate in the 2023-2024 *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 before April 1, 2024. 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, 2023.
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. Not attend any Challenge competitions other than the one in which they are assigned to participate.
5. Participants must attend an in-person event if there is a Regional Challenge offered in their area, unless approved by CEF. Participants who do not have a Regional Challenge event nearby will attend one of the 2 available virtual Regional Challenges.
6. All students from their school must participate in the same Challenge competition. Participants will not be allowed to participate on a different day or through a different format (in-person vs. virtual) from their teammates or classmates. For example, if there are two Regional Challenge locations near your school, all student teams from that school must attend the same event.
7. Participate as part of a team of three or four at all rounds of competition. Exceptions due solely to a death in the immediate family or personal illness, with notification, on a case-by-case basis.
8. Not have been declared a National Challenge competition first-place winning team member.

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

## B. Team Substitutions

If a member of a team is no longer able to participate, there are two options depending on when this occurs.

1. Teams may update their roster before participating in a Regional Challenge and/or creating their video. This does not count as a substitution, it's just an update.
2. If changes in a team's composition occurs after a Regional Challenge and after creating the video, the following team substitution rules apply:
  - a. The new team member must adhere to the participation requirements.

- b. The new team member must have participated in the Regional Challenge or the video component.

Please note, substitutes may not participate if they do not meet the above requirements. Substitutes cannot attend the National Challenge if they did not participate in a Regional Challenge or the video component.

### C. 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 all 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 notices 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. Improper use of Challenge competition questions or content is grounds for disqualification of a single participant or Challenge event.

### D. Format

Team scores will be calculated after the virtual or in-person Regional Challenge has ended. Team members *must* participate on the same day through the same format (in-person vs. virtual).

The event will follow the format below:

Round	Number of Questions	Scoring
Round 1	10	Cumulative
Round 2	10	
Round 3	10	
Round 4	10	

A break will follow each round.

## In-Person Track

### In-Person Regional Challenge

#### A. In-Person Regional Challenge Rules

1. *Challenge Qualifier*: The Challenge Qualifier should be administered and graded in the format deemed appropriate by the Organizer, provided it meets the following requirements:
  - i. The Challenge Qualifier must be administered without assistance answering Qualifier questions from any non-team member (including the Team Coordinator).
  - ii. Participants must form a team of three or four before submitting Qualifier scores.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. 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.
  - v. 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 average score and will not see their individual scores.
  - vi. The Challenge Qualifier may only contain questions supplied by CEF for the 2023-2024 Challenge cycle. Questions may not be altered or reordered.
  
2. *Regional Challenge events*:
  - i. Regional Challenge events may only use questions supplied by CEF for the 2023-2024 Challenge cycle.
  - ii. Questions may not be altered and must be presented in the order CEF provides.
  - iii. Answers should only be scored using the scoring key provided by CEF.
  - iv. Questions must be simultaneously displayed to the participants and audience during the competition.
  - v. A moderator will state each question once. Questions will not be repeated unless requested to do so by the Judges.
  - vi. Teams will have limited time to provide their answer. Teams will be made aware of the time limit for each question.
  - vii. Teams will submit their answers using answer sheets provided by CEF.
  - viii. Teams must finish answering the question in the allotted time.
  - ix. The moderator will read the correct answer once time expires, and after all answers are collected.
  - x. Judges will begin scoring team responses as soon as all responses have been collected for each question.
  - xi. Winning team(s) will be determined at the end of the event based on team scores.
  - xii. If more than one team has the same score, the tiebreaker procedure must be used as outlined in the rules.

- xiii. 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.
3. *Regional Challenge Tiebreakers:* In the event of a tie at the conclusion of round 4, Regional Challenge events must use the procedures below to determine final scores.
- i. Teams with tied cumulative scores (from all preceding rounds) are differentiated by combined scores from round 4 only.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. If a tie persists after using all the tiebreaker questions, contact CEF for further instructions.
4. *Judges:* Regional Challenge Organizers must designate at least two competition Judges for each event. Judges' responsibilities include:
- i. Ensuring the competition complies with all rules.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. Announcing competition results.
  - iv. All Judges' decisions are final, appeals are not allowed.

## B. In-Person 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 Regional Challenge 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 during the competition is 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.

## C. In-Person 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 within 5 business days of notice to compete at the National Challenge.

- D. Participating teams must submit a video following the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Video Guidelines by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, March 22, 2024.
1. The Video Component comprises 50% of the team's overall score with the team's Regional Challenge score comprising the other 50% of the team's overall score.
  2. The overall score is used to determine state winners and National Finalists.

## Virtual Track

### Virtual Regional Challenge

#### A. Virtual Regional Challenge Rules

1. CEF is not responsible for technical issues participants may encounter during the virtual Regional Challenge (e.g.: computer freezes, Wi-Fi drops out, etc.).
2. A moderator will read each question once.
3. Participants will have limited time to provide their answer. Participants will be made aware of the time limit for each question.
4. Participants must finish answering the question in the allotted time.
5. Participants must form teams of three to four before participating.
6. Winning team(s) from each state will be determined and announced after all Challenge competitions have taken place.

#### B. Virtual 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.

##### 3. *Participants*

- i. To uphold academic integrity, participants are not permitted to search for answers by accessing outside resources during the competition.
- ii. Participants may not possess cell phones or other electronic devices, other than the device they are using to participate, while the virtual Regional Challenge is in progress or during breaks in between rounds.
- iii. Participants may not communicate with anyone outside of their team or consult outside sources during the virtual academic competition.
- iv. Non-participants are not permitted to engage with participants during the virtual Regional Challenge.
- v. Participants may not have CEF study materials or related reference materials near them while the virtual Regional Challenge is in progress or during breaks, except the CEF-provided periodic table.
- vi. Non-participants may not disturb the competition or participants at any time.
- vii. Participants and non-participants may not in any way record, disclose, or publish any competition questions during or after the virtual Regional Challenge.
- viii. Any participant or non-participant 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.

**C. Virtual 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 accommodations to participate in the virtual Regional Challenge. To make arrangements for reasonable accommodations, CEF must be notified by December 31, 2022.

- D.** Participating teams must submit a video following the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® Video Guidelines by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, March 22, 2024.
4. The Video Component comprises 50% of the team's overall score with the team's Regional Challenge score comprising the other 50% of the team's overall score.
  5. The overall score is used to determine state winners and National Finalists.

**National Challenge**

- A. The top five teams from among the state/province winners will advance to the National Challenge in Houston, TX.
- B. At the National Challenge, students will present their research and ideas from their video submission to a panel of judges and the top three teams will win scholarships.
- C. Teams competing in the National Challenge must commit to attending all National Challenge events to participate.
- D. National Challenge guidelines will be made available to National Finalists.

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