

UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON® National Competition – 2016

The United States Academic Decathlon® National Finals is held under the auspices of the USAD Board of Directors. All testing, judging, scoring, and any other function of the competition per se are managed by USAD. This year's event is being hosted by the United States Academic Decathlon® in conjunction with a host of volunteers from the State of Alaska.

General Rules

Identification

All participants must display their USAD IDs at their workstations during each test and at each competition event. **ID badges must be worn to all competitive events and must be plainly visible to the proctors and judges to verify each participant's identity.** On each test booklet you will find a "Certification Statement." You are to print your name and four digit ID number on the designated line and then sign and date the statement in order for the test to be acceptable for scoring.

Testing Arena

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in the testing arena. Contestants will NOT be excused from the testing room (including Super Quiz™) for any reason before the scheduled break. If a student leaves a testing room or event, he/she will NOT be permitted to return until the next scheduled break at the conclusion of the subject area tests. Any participant who has a medical condition which requires special provisions of any kind must provide USAD with written documentation from a physician in advance of the competition. The decision to allow a medical exception is at the discretion of USAD and is final.

Super Quiz™

This event is held before a large audience; therefore, spectators are asked to be as quiet as possible while the questions are being read in order to give each group of contestants an equal opportunity for hearing and responding. Participants are NOT permitted to bring books, notes, purses, backpacks, coats, hats, cell phones, electronic devices, or any other items to the team seating area or to the competition floor, **except for one acceptable calculator for the mathematics questions.** Any such items will be confiscated by proctors. Mascots must remain in the team seating area and are NOT allowed on stage. Coaches and State Directors are NOT allowed to sit with or communicate with their team members during the Super Quiz™. Coaches will be seated in a designated area. Any team that does not adhere to the Super Quiz™ rules may be disqualified from the event. **Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in the Super Quiz™ competition area.**

Tardiness

Participants are responsible for being in the proper test location at the time each test begins. If a participant is tardy, he/she will NOT be allowed to enter the testing room or the speech and interview events. Contestants will NOT be allowed to enter the Super Quiz™ Relay venue once the competition commences.

Test Materials

The proctor will supply all printed materials and utensils necessary for the subject area tests. Participants are NOT permitted to bring books, notes, purses, backpacks, coats, hats, mascots, electronic devices, computer watches, cell phones, or any other items, except for approved calculators, into the testing room. Any such items will be confiscated by the proctor and may result in the student receiving a zero for that particular session. The decision of USAD will be final and irrevocable.

Starting/Stopping

If a proctor determines that a student has failed to stop when instructed to do so or has started before being instructed to do so, the student will receive a score of zero for that particular test.

Cheating

If a proctor or competition official finds a contestant involved in using or possessing a cell phone in any competition area, using any unauthorized means of communication, using any type of crib, sharing, texting, storing, or transporting test information (including inappropriate use of a calculator), the proctor must report the incident to the USAD Testing Director. If a participant is proven to have cheated, he/she will be disqualified from the event; however, depending on the severity of the infraction, the participant may be disqualified from the entire competition. Participants removed because of cheating or misconduct will NOT be eligible for any awards. Any person receiving or passing along any current year's tests or test items, except for USAD published practice tests, will disqualify him/herself and his/her team from Decathlon participation. The decision of USAD will be final and irrevocable.

Withdrawal

In the case of an emergency or illness, a participant must formally withdraw in order to be eligible for any awards. To formally withdraw, a participant must give a written explanation of his/her withdrawal to a proctor or Decathlon official. An alternate student CANNOT be added to a team in the case of a withdrawal.

Test Scores

Any scores announced during the competition are unofficial. Test scores will NOT be posted at any time during the competition, except for those from the Super Quiz™ Relay event. The scoring center is off-limits to everyone except designated officials.

Team Selection

The nine team members who attend the National Finals must be the same nine students who participated in and won the state competition. No substitutions are permitted. In the case of an extreme medical emergency occurring after the state competition, USAD and the State Director will determine if another student may replace the absent team

member. Teams shall NOT consist of more than nine members. Teams may compete with fewer than nine members, but must have a minimum of six members—two in each grade point average category. To be eligible for competition, teams must file all required documents in accordance with the deadlines set by USAD.

School Divisions

There will be three divisions of schools—Division I, Division II, and Division III—at the USAD national competition. These divisions are determined by the enrollment for grades 9–12 of the schools attending Nationals. The Robert Peterson trophy will be awarded to the team with the highest overall score.

Essay and Art

This year the essay and art events will take place online prior to the competition in Anchorage, AK. The essay test will be held April 7, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. Central Daylight time with the art test immediately following the essay. You will need to reserve a computer lab at your school, library or other venue. An administrator (not the team coach) will need to oversee the online competition. All students **MUST** participate on this day. All teams are required to participate in a practice set-up from April 1 at 12:30 p.m. to April 5, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. Central Daylight time.

Each essay will be read by two judges. If the scores from the two judges differ by 200 points or more, the essay will then be read by a third reader. The divergent score will be tossed out, and the two closest scores will be averaged to determine the essay score.

Calculator Policy

Calculators are allowed in the testing room ONLY during the testing session in which the math test is scheduled. Calculators may be used for the math test and Super Quiz™ Relay ONLY. Calculators must be stored beneath the student's chair and out of sight while other tests are being taken during the same testing session as that in which the math test is scheduled to be taken. Students may use any hand-held, battery-operated calculator that is considered a four-function or scientific calculator, or graphing calculator. Models with a QWERTY keypad, such as the TI-92 or HP-95, and models with CAS (Computer Algebra Systems), such as the TI-89 are NOT allowed. Students may NOT exchange calculators. Students and coaches should refer to USAD's calculator policy for additional information regarding calculators. A new calculator use form is required this year—the form is located on the 2016 Nationals webpage.

Standards of Conduct

Decathletes and coaches are required to comply with the above competition rules and those stated in the *USAD Code of Student Conduct*. Failure to adhere to these rules may, at the discretion of USAD, result in the disqualification of the participant and/or his/her team. Decathletes will uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity while participating in the Academic Decathlon®. If necessary, a Decathlete may be required to re-take an alternate test to validate his/her test results.