

2026-2027 Calculator Policy

For the 2026–2027 academic year, calculators are not permitted on any United States Academic Decathlon® tests or events, including the Mathematics test and Super Quiz™. This policy applies at all levels of Academic Decathlon competition, including local, regional, state, and national competitions.

Purpose and Background

USAD has adopted a no-calculator standard to provide a simpler, more consistent testing environment across competitions and to ensure that all decathletes compete under the same conditions.

The previous calculator policy required competition officials to verify approved calculator models, monitor compliance with calculator restrictions, address calculator memory and functionality, and inspect calculators before testing. Eliminating calculator use removes these administrative challenges as well as potential advantages or disadvantages associated with calculator availability, features, and capabilities.

Mathematics Test

All Mathematics test questions will be developed so that a calculator is not required. Questions will emphasize mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, estimation, logical thinking, and appropriate written computation.

Competition Preparation and Administration

Coaches and students should prepare for all competitions assuming no calculator access.

State Directors and competition organizers should ensure that competition instructions, coach communications, proctor materials, and other relevant competition documents reflect the no-calculator policy before competition.

The previous USAD Calculator Policy identifying approved and prohibited calculator models is no longer applicable for the 2026–2027 academic year.