

## 2025 Small School National Championship Tournament Participation Agreement

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### Identification and Context

1. The term “the participant” refers to the person who will be identified by name on the last page of this document.
2. If the participant is a minor, this document will be signed by *both* the participant and their parent or legal guardian, in which case the terms “I”, “me”, “my”, and “myself” apply to the parent/guardian, and the terms “we”, “us”, “our”, “ours”, and “ourselves” apply to both the participant and parent/guardian. If the participant is a legal adult, this document will be signed by the participant, and all of those terms apply to the participant. However, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to read and additionally sign this document for high school students who have attained the age of majority.
3. The participant will be attending the 2025 Small School National Championship Tournament (“the tournament”) in Rosemont, Illinois (near Chicago) on April 25–27, 2025 (plus possible additional travel time).
4. We understand that the tournament is an educational academic competition for which prizes are only of token value.
5. We understand that the tournament is run by National Academic Quiz Tournaments, LLC (“NAQT”), which is duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of its state of incorporation, California.
6. We understand that the participant may be traveling long distances and staying in a hotel overnight.
7. If the participant is to participate as a player: We understand the eligibility rules (<https://www.naqt.com/hs/eligibility.html>) and certify that the participant is eligible to compete for their team at this tournament (perhaps via explicit special dispensation from NAQT). We understand that if the participant is found to be ineligible, the team will forfeit all games in which they appear, and they and/or the team may be subject to further sanctions.
8. We understand that the participant’s behavior reflects not only on themselves and their team but also on the quiz bowl community and the overall institution of quiz bowl. The participant will refrain from conduct that discredits themselves, any team, NAQT, or quiz bowl in general, or brings any of them into disrepute.
9. The participant agrees to treat all participants (players, coaches, chaperones, staff, spectators, and others) with respect.
10. The participant understands and agrees to abide by the NAQT Honor Code (<https://www.naqt.com/go/honor-code/>), including but not limited to section A:

All tournament participants are bound by an honor code to behave responsibly and ethically. “Tournament participants” for this purpose includes players, coaches, chaperones, institutional representatives, other people associated with a team, spectators, and tournament staff. Responsible and ethical behavior means that all tournament participants will...

- (a) Treat all people present with courtesy. Avoid behavior that is physically or verbally aggressive, intimidating, hostile, harassing, or disrespectful to others.
  - (b) Avoid action or speech that is hateful or discriminatory toward others, including but not limited to on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or other personal characteristics.
  - (c) Avoid behavior that disrupts the competitive integrity of quiz bowl. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, cheating, enabling others to cheat, creating the temptation for others to cheat, deliberately gaining or facilitating access to questions in inappropriate fashions, colluding with another person to “fix” a game result, or intentionally “throwing” a game.
  - (d) Abide by all decisions of the tournament staff, honestly report details of game situations to tournament staff, and promptly report violations of this honor code to a tournament staff member.
11. The participant understands and agrees to abide by the NAQT Rules (<https://www.naqt.com/rules/>).
  12. We understand that NAQT’s decisions on all matters relating to the tournament—including but not limited to correctness of responses; adjudication of protests; accusations of, investigations of, determinations of, and consequences for cheating or other misconduct; resolution of other issues; and communication about any of these matters to other entities—are final and not subject to litigation or further appeal in any venue.
  13. We understand that the tournament may involve stretches of downtime during which staff will not be observing the team.
  14. If the participant is to participate as a player: We understand that statistical results will be recorded for the participant and their team, and the results will be posted on NAQT’s website and potentially in other media. We understand and agree that these results will generally not be suppressed or removed, in accordance with the NAQT Privacy Policy

(<https://www.naqt.com/go/privacy-policy>).

15. If the participant is to participate as a player: We understand that completing this agreement does not itself guarantee that the participant or their team will play (as that may also depend on coaching decisions, registration completion, payment, etc.).

## Chaperone

1. We understand that the team is required to have a chaperone, subject to the following rules:
  - (a) The chaperone must be at least 21 years old.
  - (b) The chaperone must be reachable by text message (at a number provided to NAQT) throughout the tournament, to the maximum extent possible given availability of cellular networks.
  - (c) The chaperone must be with the team at most times during the tournament and downtime. If the chaperone is not with the team, NAQT is not obligated to contact the chaperone in situations short of an emergency. In particular, NAQT will not contact absent chaperones regarding protests.
  - (d) The chaperone must be with the team during travel. If the team is traveling in multiple groups, all groups must be chaperoned during travel by a person who is at least 21 years old.
  - (e) The chaperone must always be near enough to the team to (physically) reach them in less than ten minutes.
  - (f) The chaperone may also be the chaperone for other teams at the tournament, thus potentially reducing their regular proximity to the team (but without nullifying any of these requirements).
2. I am or will be aware of the team leadership's choice of chaperone. I affirm that the chosen chaperone will meet NAQT's requirements, any requirements from the team's school, and my own requirements for supervision of the participant.
3. I understand that NAQT is not responsible for arranging or vetting the chaperone.
4. I understand that NAQT is not responsible for supervising, or providing supervision for, any participants.
5. I understand that the chaperone is the primary (and potentially only) person responsible for the appropriate behavior, safety, and well-being of the participant and their team. I understand that the role of tournament staff is to officiate games and otherwise facilitate the tournament, and that tournament staff are not responsible for supervising participants.
6. If the participant is to participate as a player: The participant agrees that they are responsible for complying with the chaperone's directives.
7. We understand that during in-game disputes, the team's coach (if present) and chaperone (if present) will be primarily responsible for speaking for the team. In case of emergency or any other situation in which an adult contact is necessary, the chaperone will be NAQT's first point of contact for the team.

## Media

1. We understand that our participation in the tournament may be memorialized in audio, video, photographic, or other media (hereafter and collectively "recordings").
  2. We understand that it is forbidden by federal law to fix the outcome of any broadcast contest of knowledge or to offer or accept special or secret assistance related to the program, and that this provision might apply to recorded games. The participant will not participate in any such acts and will immediately notify the tournament director should someone try to induce them to do any such acts. We understand that ethical violations may be reported to the participant's school, team leadership, and/or law enforcement.
  3. The participant will not make any unauthorized mention or plug of any commercial product, service, venture, or thing while being recorded.
  4. We grant to NAQT the irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide right and license to record the participant and to use their likeness, name, voice, biographical material, and any remarks they may make in connection with the production, distribution, exhibition, advertising, and other exploitation of the tournament worldwide by any method and in all media. Photographs, tapes, movies, and recordings of anything the participant says or does at the tournament will be owned by NAQT to do with as NAQT wishes at any time, including for publication on the NAQT website, advertising, and broadcast. NAQT has the right to cut, edit, and combine materials for final publication, display, or broadcast.
  5. We understand that NAQT need not provide recordings to us or anyone else, nor is NAQT required to use recordings for any purpose.
  6. We waive all claims—including those based upon invasion of privacy, misrepresentation, defamation, or right of publicity—arising out of any use (or any unintentional blurring, distortion, alteration, faulty reproduction, optical illusion, or use of composite form) of the participant's name, picture, or likeness, unless it can be shown that such use was for the purpose of subjecting them to conspicuous ridicule, scandal, reproach, scorn, or indignity.
  7. We will not make audio or video recordings during the tournament that contain any questions, nor will we otherwise transmit question content (e.g., via social media posts), except as authorized by tournament staff.
- ☐ We prefer that audio or video recordings of the participant not be made. We understand that NAQT mandates the recording

of some games (typically late in the playoffs), considers the recording of some games to be optional, and does not record some games. If the participant is to participate as a player, NAQT will provide them with a name card indicating that they opt out of non-mandatory recordings, and—provided that the name card is displayed—tournament staff will not record them in such games. For non-players, it is the participant’s sole responsibility to make their preference known. However, we understand that if the participant’s team plays in games with mandatory recording, the participant will have to choose whether to be present and be recorded, or not be present, for those games. The participant may also need to opt out of the awards ceremony and/or other media opportunities. We understand that the participant may appear in still images (at any time) as described above, and we grant the above-mentioned rights. We understand that NAQT is not responsible for recordings made by people other than tournament staff (e.g., parents of players on other teams).

## Release of Liability

We agree to indemnify and hold harmless NAQT; its members, officers, employees, and contractors; and all tournament staff, from all liability, claims, actions, damages, expenses, and losses of any nature arising from the participant’s participation in the tournament, including travel to and from the tournament and any and all events occurring between the participant leaving for the tournament and arriving home after the tournament.

## Other Matters

1. All information that we have supplied to NAQT has been accurate.
2. The name(s) we give below is/are our legal name(s).
3. The provisions of this agreement shall bind us and our heirs, executors, and administrators.
4. The term “NAQT” throughout this contract includes NAQT’s successors, licensees, agents, and assignees.
5. The rights we grant to NAQT may be assigned to any person, firm, or corporation.
6. This is the complete agreement between NAQT and me with respect to the participant’s participation in this tournament. No one claiming to speak on behalf on NAQT has made any representations to us that contradict what is in this contract. This agreement may only be modified by a written amendment signed by us and an officer of NAQT.
7. This agreement shall be construed and governed by the laws of Minnesota. We agree that the proper venue for any resulting judicial actions will be the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota or a corresponding Minnesota state court. If either or both of us habitually resides in any other country, we consent to the jurisdiction of the United States courts to enforce this agreement.
8. We have the capacity and authority to understand and sign this contract.

*We agree to this entire (3-page) Participation Agreement for the 2025 Small School National Championship Tournament.*

Participant’s role (check one):

- ☐ Player
- ☐ Coach and/or chaperone

The parent/guardian signature is generally expected even of players who have turned 18 years old; exceptional situations should be discussed with NAQT. It is not required for coaches/chaperones.

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Participant’s name (print neatly)

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Parent/guardian’s name (print neatly)

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Participant’s signature (handwritten)

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Parent/guardian’s signature (handwritten)

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Participant’s school

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Date

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Date

**Scan or photograph the completed agreement and email it to [participate@naqt.com](mailto:participate@naqt.com). This must be completed and received on or before Friday, April 11, 2025 (preferably earlier) or the participant may not attend.**