

AREMA Committee 24 Collegiate Quiz Bowl

Guidelines

At the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) annual conference, a competition between AREMA student teams will be conducted as the AREMA Committee 24 Collegiate Quiz Bowl (Quiz Bowl). The objectives of the Quiz Bowl are to encourage students to enhance their knowledge of the railway industry and of AREMA, to strengthen the programs of the AREMA student chapters, and to foster a collegial spirit amongst the students.

The following rules and guidelines are set forth for the competition.

Teams

A team for the Quiz Bowl shall consist of up to five (5) AREMA Student Members. Each Student Chapter is allowed to have at least one team in the competition. Each Student Chapter Team member **must** be:

- a full-time student of the university that they represent
- a member of AREMA
- a member of their university's chartered AREMA student chapter

Each team will designate a Team Captain on the Team Sign in sheet.

Up to two (2) Member-At-Large Teams will be eligible to participate in the competition. Each member of the Member-At-Large Teams must be:

- A full-time student at a university
- A member of AREMA
- Must attend a school who is not already represented in the competition

A student will not be eligible to participate as a member of their school's team if they are or have been registered or licensed as a professional engineer.

No professors and/or students, that are not participating in the competition, will be permitted in the team competition area.

Competition Resources

The Quiz Bowl will involve questions and answers from various railway industry resources. The following current resources will be used in addition to other publicly available information:

1. Practical Guide to Railway Engineering
2. Federal Railway Administration (FRA) website, www.fra.dot.gov, and associated publications
3. American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) web site, www.arema.org, and associated publications
4. American Shortline Railroad Association website, www.aslrra.org and associated publications

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In addition, the competition will include categories that feature questions about AREMA, its structure and governance taken from the AREMA website, questions from “general railway industry knowledge”, and questions on popular culture topics that are related to the railway industry.

The questions and answers will be presented in English to the teams, both in a spoken form by the Emcee and on a visual display using a large projector screen or monitor. All answers should be given in English units of measure unless otherwise directed.

Competition Structure

At the AREMA Annual Conference, the competition structure will consist of five (5) rounds of ten (10) questions, each round varying in level of difficulty from easy to expert.

- Each question will be read once and displayed by the Emcee.
- A single response sheet will be given to each team for each round.
- One (1) minute will be given for team discuss between completion of reading a question and the beginning of reading of the next question.
- Each question will be worth one point.
- All questions are scored as all or nothing.
- All the teams will participate in all five rounds.
- In the event of a tie, a Tiebreaker Round (10 questions) will be held in the same format for only the teams in the tie.

Competition Outline

- Introductions of judges and emcee and present competition instructions.
- At the beginning of each round, each team will be given an answer sheet by Competition Assistants.
- In each round, questions will be read with one (1) minute between each question provided for team discussion.
- Ten (10) questions will be included in each round.
- Answer sheets will be picked up by Competition Assistants.
- Three (3) minutes will be given between the reading of the last question and the point at which the answer sheet must be turned in.
- After all sheets are turned in answers will be read.
- Teams will have five (5) minutes between the reading of the last answer for each round and before the first question is read for the next round. During this time, the answers to the previous questions will be read.
- Each team will be given a chance to challenge one (1) question before the next round begins.
- Scores will be posted between rounds upon the completion of scoring.

Question Challenge

- Each team will receive one (1) Question Challenge to be used for one (1) single question during the initial five (5) rounds.
- Only the Team Captain can present a challenge, in the form of a challenge card, to the scoring table.
- Teams will have until two (2) minutes after the last answer for the round is completely read to get in line to present a challenge card. Any team captain not in line for the scoring table prior to time expiring will not be considered.
- Any Question Challenge presented without a challenge card will not be considered.

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- Any Question Challenge presented by any team member other than the Team Captain will not be considered.

The team with the most points will be The AREMA Committee 24 Collegiate Quiz Bowl Champion.

Equipment

Each team is responsible for supplying their own scratch paper, writing utensils, and calculators as they see necessary. No books, reference materials, or computers/cell phones, cameras or other electronic devices with internet capabilities will be allowed.

Competition Staff

The competition staff will consist of the Emcee, Judge, Scorers, and Competition Assistants. Descriptions of their roles follow:

Emcee: The competition's questions and correct answers will be read by the Emcee, who will also serve to control the flow of the game. The Emcee will be responsible for displaying the questions during the competition as well as keeping track of the time.

Scorers: The competition's answers will be judged by two Scorers who will also serve as the scorekeepers for the competition.

The questions and correct answers will be provided to the Scorers, but the Scorer will be allowed to determine whether a different response/answer is also acceptable, based upon their collective knowledge and judgment. The Scorers will also be permitted to dismiss a question if they deem it incorrect, inaccurate, or poorly worded.

The Scorers will also be responsible for ruling on irregularities or issues that evolve during the course of play that are not specifically addressed within the rules.

During the competition, any challenge of the questions shall be the responsibility of the Scorers and Judge to rule and make a final decision. Their decisions shall be final and shall stand without recourse.

Judge: Any disagreements between the Scorers that can't be settled regarding acceptable answers, irregularities or other issues will be settled by the Judge. This person will be presented the information in dispute and will make the ruling as to how to proceed. His/Her decision shall be final and shall stand without recourse.

Competition Assistants: The Competition Assistants will be responsible for miscellaneous tasks throughout the competition as necessary, including checking in the teams, monitoring the competition, and handing out and collecting answer sheets.

Timekeeper: The timekeeper will be responsible for keeping track of time between each question and between the end of reading the last answer and first question for the next round.

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Awards

The members of the team winning the Quiz Bowl will each receive a certificate to recognize the achievement and prize from AREMA. Prizes will be awarded the day of the competition. Following the Annual Conference, the certificates will be mailed to the student chapter advisor for presentation at a suitable place and time.

Starting in 2016, a plaque will be updated each year with the winner of the Quiz Bowl. Student Chapter Teams will be sent the plaque following the competition to be displayed at their university during the year. The winner team is responsible for bringing the plaque to the AREMA annual conference the following year.

An announcement by AREMA will be issued announcing the Champion of the Quiz Bowl, distributed to the AREMA membership and posted on the AREMA website.

Other Rules

Prior to the competition, any interpretation or clarification of the contest rules shall be submitted to the Student Chapter Coordinator at scc@arema.org for consideration by the Quiz Bowl planning team. The Quiz Bowl planning team decision shall be final and shall stand without recourse.

Recording of the competition and the contents (clues/questions/responses/answers) by audience members by any means will not be permitted.

During the competition, the only members of the teams will be allowed in the competition area.

Communication with audience during the competition will result in disqualification of the team participating.

The use of cell phones or other electronic devices with internet access or other banned resources will not be permitted by the members of the team.

Attachments

- Student Chapter Team Entry Form
- Member-At-Large Team Individual Entry Form

Timeline

Entry Forms for team entries and member-at-large team individual entries should be submitted by COB (central time) August 31, 2018 to the Student Chapter Coordinator at scc@arema.org. First team from each Student Chapter will receive immediate notification of participation in the competition. Additional teams from a Student Chapter will be put on a first-come, first-serve waiting list. The Member-At-Large Teams will be filled on a first-come, first serve basis. Waiting List Teams and member-at-large team members will be notified shortly after the deadline of their participation in the competitions. Day of sign-ups will be permitting for Member-At-Large Teams only.