

HEBRON MINISTRIES

OFFICIAL TBQ/ABQ RULEBOOK

ADDENDUMS FOR 2021

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RATIO OF OFFICIALS PER TEAM

Unless otherwise specified by the National Coordinator, teams competing in official competition are required to bring the following number of certified officials:

- 1 team—1 official
- 2 teams—3 officials
- 3 teams—4 officials
- 4 teams—6 officials
- 5 teams—7 officials

Note: In other words, the ratio is *3 officials per 2 teams*.

RATIO OF QUIZ-BOXES PER TEAM

Unless otherwise specified by the National Coordinator, teams competing in official competition are required to bring the following number of quiz boxes:

- 1 team—1 quiz box
- 2 teams—1 quiz box
- 3 teams—1 quiz box
- 4 teams—2 quiz boxes
- 5 teams—2 quiz boxes

Note: In other words, the ratio is *1 quiz box per 2 teams*.

QUIZZER ELIGIBILITY

All TBQ quizzers must be at least 12 years old. Quizzers may continue to compete in TBQ as long as they are single.

All ABQ quizzers must be at least 18 years old.

The cut-off date for a quizzers' age is October 31. The quizzers' age by this date will determine if he qualifies or not to participate in a given category.

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS

1. A team is allowed one head coach and a maximum of one assistant coach.
2. NBQ, TBQ, and ABQ coaches must be at least 18 years old.
3. NBQ, TBQ, and ABQ assistant coaches must be at least 16 years old.
4. NBQ, TBQ, and ABQ officials must be at least 19 years old
5. Unless otherwise notified by the National Coordinator, new officials will need to take and pass the Bible Quiz Test with at least an 80%.

6. Unless otherwise notified by the National Coordinator, Quizmasters will need to take and pass the Bible Quiz Test with at least a 90%.
7. Whenever officiating for League Meets and/or Finals, every judge must have present at the table a copy of his own:
 - a. *Official Scripture Portion*
 - b. *Official 2010-2011 Bible Quiz Rulebook*
 - c. *Official Bible Quiz Rulebook Clarifications* (plus any updates)
 - d. *Official TBQ/ABQ Rulebook Addendums* (plus any updates)

Note: We also recommend that coaches have a copy of these documents with them.

8. New officials *cannot* be used as Quizmasters unless they have been quizzers in the past.
9. New officials may *only* be used as Scorekeepers or Timekeepers. New officials must *first* prove themselves capable of being good judges in at least one of these positions and in at least one official competition before they are promoted to being used as a Quizmaster.
10. New officials should *not* be paired together at the same station, unless there is no other option.
11. All officials *must* show impartiality in their judging.
12. Any official showing *obvious* partiality will need to be warned by his pastor. If the official does not or is not able to change his unacceptable behavior, he will not be allowed to continue officiating for Bible Quiz competition.

Note: Any complaint regarding an official's partiality should be taken to the Bible Quiz coordinator responsible for the competition. The coordinator should then proceed to do two things: Inform the respective pastor of the complaint and report the incident to the National Coordinator.

13. All officials *must* show a good attitude towards the quizzers—recognizing and appreciating each quizzers who has chosen to invest time and effort to memorize God's precious Word. The goal of every official should be to provide an atmosphere in which the quizzers can feel support and encouragement.
14. Officials used as Quizmasters *must* have the following characteristics: Good reading skills, good reading speed, experience, a good understanding of the Rulebook, honesty, impartiality, maturity to handle difficult quizzing situations, a good attitude towards quizzers, a willingness to ask for the support of his officials when needed (judges' vote), and a willingness to call the Coordinator when needed.
15. The Quizmaster is responsible for the oversight of the match and must ensure that it proceeds in as fair and smooth a manner as possible. The Quizmaster, together with his judges, represent the authority throughout the match. In spite of these things, they must avoid an attitude of "I'm in

charge here” or “Here everyone does what I say.” The Quizmaster, together with his judges, must always judge according to the *Official Scripture Portion*, the *Official Bible Quiz Rulebook*, the *Official Bible Quiz Rulebook Clarifications*, the *Official TBQ/ABQ Rulebook Addendums*, and always give the quizzers the benefit of the doubt.

16. If the Quizmaster should forget to assess a foul, his judges should immediately do so. If the Quizmaster continues to forget to assess *obvious* fouls, he will no longer be able to officiate as a Quizmaster. (Please take note of the word “obvious.”)

17. This does *not* mean that the Quizmaster should be “hawkish” in overseeing the match. The Quizmaster should never be *looking* for ways to foul the quizzers. This is another extreme that all officials *must* avoid and is just as detrimental to a match as the opposite behavior which was mentioned in the previous point. Officials must work to find the correct balance. Officials who are *not* willing to receive instruction in regard to this issue should not be used in official Bible Quiz competition.

Note: If officials are not sure if they have the correct balance, we encourage them to speak with their Regional Coordinator.

18. For all regional Bible Quiz competitions, Regional Coordinators will choose who is used as an official and where they are placed.

19. For all National Final competitions, National Coordinators will choose who is used as an official and where they are placed.

20. In choosing who is used as an official and where they are placed, coordinators *must* take into consideration:

- a. Recommendations from pastors or coordinators as to who should be used and where they should be used
- b. Past experience and complaints (if any) in official Bible Quiz competitions
- c. Present need
- d. Official test grades

Note: In spite of the fact that the official’s test grade *is* an important factor when considering an official’s placement, the test grade alone will *not* be the deciding factor. All of the points mentioned above will be taken into consideration and the coordinator will be responsible for choosing the placement of all officials.

21. Officials chosen to participate in the National Final must be the best and most experienced from each of the regions, must have a low record of complaints and problems when officiating, and their Regional Coordinator must be able to give them a good recommendation.

Note: National Coordinators should contact their Regional Coordinators to inquire as to who they recommend and where they recommend placing them.

TEAM STRUCTURE: RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. For **LEAGUE MEETS**, teams are to be formed by mixing stronger quizzers with weaker quizzers. This should strengthen stronger quizzers, as they are encouraged to win as many points as possible, and it should also strengthen and encourage weaker quizzers, as they will have the support that they need to improve.
2. For **LEAGUE FINALS**, teams are to be formed by bringing together the strongest quizzers. The goal is to have the strongest team(s) possible so as to increase the chances of qualifying a team(s) to compete in the National Final.

Weaker quizzers are encouraged to continue competing. Since they will be part of a weaker team, it is important that they compete with the understanding that their goal should be to gain valuable quizzing experience rather than team wins (as this would be difficult to do with a weaker team). This experience will help them to develop better quizzing skills and strategies that will help them return as stronger quizzers in the next Bible Quiz season.

3. Although one substitute is allowed per team in both the **LEAGUE MEET** and **LEAGUE FINAL**, it is not always recommended. Each quizzers' goal in these competitions must be to accumulate the greatest amount of points possible, as the scores accumulated between both competitions will be decisive (see point #5) in structuring the final teams for Nationals. Quizzers sitting on the bench automatically lose their opportunity to accumulate points.

On rare occasions a second substitute may be allowed in the League Final if permission is granted. This permission will be dependent on a church's ability to restructure teams and/or create a new team in order to include one or two weaker quizzers that might have been left without a team. Please contact your regional Bible Quiz coordinator if this is your situation.

4. Once the League Final is over, teams may have changes. These changes will be dependent on the accumulative scores (see point #5) of all the quizzers.

The cut-off point for making changes is the National Final registration deadline. Once teams have registered for the National Final changes are no longer allowed.

5. When registering a team(s) for a **NATIONAL FINAL**, all quizzers must be chosen and placed by their accumulative scores obtained in:
 - a. The League Meet (This score is counted once.)
 - b. The League Final (This score is counted *twice* as more material has been memorized).
 - c. Practice matches *after* the League Final, but *before* team registration for the National Final (The score from each practice match is counted once.)

Note: Every church must be able to show accurate proof of accumulative quizzers scores and quizzers placement for all those competing in Nationals if the National Coordinator were to request it.

6. Churches are not obligated to choose highest scoring quizzers who answer from *one*, all-inclusive, group of questions (10, 20, and 30 pointers). Quizzers may not always specialize in answering questions from all three categories. A church may opt to choose highest scoring

quizzers from either one all-inclusive group or from each of the three categories (as is done in JBQ).

7. If a high-scoring quizzer is unable to participate in either the League Meet or League Final due to an emergency or justifiable absence, his pastor can request authorization from the national Bible Quiz coordinator to calculate the missing score by figuring his average per round from the local church practices.
8. After the League Final, depending on a quizzer's accumulative scores, quizzers will either qualify or be disqualified to continue competing on a team that has qualified for Nationals.

Example: Team #1 (with quizzers Ryan, Paul, and Sarah), from the *Church of Zion*, wins first place at a League Final, qualifying their church to take one team to the National Final. Will Ryan, Paul, and Sarah compete at the National Final? That will depend on their accumulative score. In order for them to remain on Team #1, they must have the three highest accumulative scores in that particular category for their church. If Sarah (Team #1) has a total of 1600 accumulative points but Charlie (Team #2) has an accumulative score of 1700, then Charlie will be chosen to take Sarah's place, as an active quizzer, on the team going to Nationals.

9. A church qualifying to take *two* teams to Nationals will not be allowed to place one of the three top scoring quizzers on Team #2. All three top scoring quizzers *must* be placed on Team #1. (The only exception to this rule is in situations where it is impossible for two of the top three scoring quizzers to get along and compete together. If this would be the situation, the pastor may authorize a change of team for one of the quizzers.)

The next three top scoring quizzers (quizzers 4-6) should be placed either as substitutes on Team #1 or as active quizzers on Team #2. The pastor will need to authorize the option that is chosen.

All other quizzer placement *must* be done subsequently, according to quizzer's total accumulative scores.

10. In order to take into account, the accumulated points, all the quizzers must have competed in the same number of rounds. If the quizzers have not competed in the same number of rounds, the AVERAGE PER ROUND must be considered. The average is found by dividing the sum of all the quizzer's points by the number of rounds in which he competed.

Example: If, in the League Meet, the quizzer competed in 6 rounds and accumulated a total of 300 points, he has an average of 50 points per round. If, in the League Final, he participated in 8 rounds and accumulated a total of 250 points, he has an average of 31.25 points per round. The average from the League Final is then *doubled*. After doubling the League Final average and adding it to the League Meet average, the quizzer's score becomes 112.5. To this number (112.5), one must then add the quizzer's average per round during the practices that occur *after* the League Final. This new number becomes the official score used to consider the quizzer's placement on a National Final team.

11. In a National Final, a maximum of three substitutes are allowed.
12. A coach and/or local coordinator are not allowed to seat a high scoring quizzer on the bench, unless he has quizzed out forwards, backwards, or fouled out. A coach will not be allowed to

start a match with a substitute (lower scoring quizzer) or bring a substitute into the match unless he is replacing an active quizzer who has quizzed out forwards, backwards, or fouled out.

The only exceptions to this rule are if a top-scoring quizzer: a) gets sick, b) requests to be taken out of a match, c) is not buzzing in due to excessive nervousness, d) has a bad attitude, e) has a bad testimony, f) can't travel. In order for these exceptions to be made, the pastor must give the coach the authority to make a change by signing the respective *Bible Quiz Permission* form. The coach must be able to show proof of this permission when necessary. (Subsequently, for these exceptions, the quizzer replacement must be made according to quizzer's total accumulated scores.)

13. Any team that does not follow these restrictions and guidelines, while structuring their team(s) and/or while competing, will be penalized 100 points per affected round.

SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE QUIZMASTER AND JUDGES

If needed, ask the audience to remain silent at all times and/or remind them that they are not allowed to confer with the team or the officials until the match has been officially closed.

If this request goes unheeded, kindly and respectfully ask them to leave the room.

Once the match has started no one should enter the room until the match has officially closed.

COORDINATOR'S INTERVENTION

Either team may call for the intervention of the coordinator in the rare event of a major rules violation. (A judgment call is not a major rules violation.)

Some examples of major rules violation:

- a. It is proven that the equipment is malfunctioning, and the officials are not willing to correct the issue.
- b. A team has contested to void and substitute a question due to *obvious* help or hindrance and the officials are not willing to accept the contest.
- c. A team has contested with *obvious* additional Scripture evidence for the question and answer in doubt and the officials are not willing to accept the contest.
- d. The officials have ruled as correct a question that is obviously incorrect or vice versa.
- e. The officials are not willing to reread an interrupted question.

FOULS

1. A quizzer should *not* be fouled for smiling unless the officials determine by majority vote that the quizzer was involved in inappropriate actions such as sending messages to his own team members and/or distracting the opposing team members.

2. An active quizzer who turns around during any part of the match, with the exception of time-out's and contests, *will* receive a foul for improper communication.
3. Any team who has a pastor, parent, family member, or other team fan in the audience, who communicates with any of the quizzers, coaches, or officials while the match is in progress will receive a team foul.
4. A team that requests the coordinator's intervention in regards to a judgment call will receive a team foul, but the request will be granted.

Examples of judgment calls:

- a. The officials rule a Quotation Question to be incorrect.
 - b. The officials rule that the quizzer did not give the same basic question and/or answer.
5. Any team that requests that a foul be assessed to the opposing team will receive a team foul for improper communication.

Note: When the Quizmaster and his judges forget to administer a foul, the team coach (or team captain when the team does not have a coach) should kindly and respectfully bring this to the officials' and coordinator's attention at the *end* of the match. If the team coach, or captain, feels he cannot address the officials in a kind and respectful way, we ask that the coach *only* bring the issue to the attention of the Bible Quiz coordinator responsible for the competition.

6. Active quizzers should have their hands above the table, palms down, and in contact with either the table, the pad, or the other hand. A violation of this guideline is *not* a foul unless there is an obvious attempt to confer with a team member or to distract the other team. (This is determined by a majority vote of the Quizmaster and Judges.)
7. If the Quizmaster and Judges determine by a majority vote that a quizzer, substitute, or coach expressed an un-Christlike or unsportsmanlike attitude, a foul will be assessed. This foul will not be disregarded if a question on which it occurs is voided.

QUOTATION QUESTIONS

When a quizzer *repeats* a word, syllable, phrase, or sentence his answer will *not* be incorrect. However, if the quizzer changes a word by adding or omitting letters, his answer *will be* incorrect.

FAST QUOTING

Quizzers are required to quote clearly enough for the Quizmaster and Judges to understand. Quizmaster and Judges continue to be required to pay close attention so as to not judge a quizzer's quoting in an incorrect manner (due to lack of attention).

CHAPTER ANALYSIS ANSWERS

1. A Chapter Analysis answer does not need to be a perfect quote. This is an essence answer. Like the Rulebook states (page 18, 3b), as long as all of the phrases, clauses and/or key words have been given, the answer is correct.
2. The only additional information allowed in an answer requiring a list is the word “and.”

For example:

Question number 1 for 10 points. Three-Part Chapter Analysis Answer. From Third John chapter 1. Which individuals are mentioned?

3 John 1:1 Gaius
3 John 1:9 Diotrephes
3 John 1:12 Demetrius

If the quizzer answers, “Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius,” he will be correct.

IRRELEVANT OR INCORRECT

Even though a quizzer might quote the entire verse(s) in his answer, he will *always* be correct unless one of the following is true:

1. The question has a Chapter Analysis Introductory Remark and in quoting all the verse (or verses) the quizzer has given additional information other than the required Chapter Analysis answer.

For example:

Question number 1 for 10 points. Chapter Analysis Answer. From John chapter 20.

According to verse 13, what did the angels ask?

John 20:13 And they say unto her, Woman why weepest thou?
She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

If the quizzer answers with: And they say unto her, Woman why weepest thou? he will be incorrect. In a Chapter Analysis answer, quizzers are *not* allowed to add on any extra words that might come before the actual answer.

2. The answer is an answer to a question that requires “Give the conversation of _____ with _____.”
(The only additional information allowed in this type of answer is interjected phrases.)
3. The answer is an answer to a question that requires, “Give all the words of _____.”
(The only additional information allowed in this type of answer is interjected phrases.)

CONTESTING

1. A quizzer is allowed to use information from the *Official Bible Quiz Rulebook*, the *Official Scripture Portion*, the *Official Bible Quiz Rulebook Clarifications* and/or the *Official Rulebook Addendums* to support his contest.
2. TBQ will abide by all the ABQ rules for contesting (page 36).

TIMES OF PRAYER

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven ...”*

A Bible Quiz competition is not exempt from this truth. The season or the time for having a prayer meeting is not during a Bible Quiz competition. A "prayer meeting" will be considered any meeting together with the team and/or isolating the team in order to pray. Times of prayer are highly encouraged both BEFORE and AFTER the competition day, but not the day of the competition.

Note: This is not referring to the short prayer that opens each round of competition.

CHOOSING HIGH SCORERS

When competing teams are divided into two groups, where they play a round robin within their group, and the top teams from each group advance to the final rounds, high scorers will be chosen by taking into consideration *all* rounds, from both the first and second round robins.

INDIVIDUAL TIE BREAKERS

Quizzers who tie in their score will be ranked according to their quiz-outs.

If quiz-outs are also tied, quizzers will be ranked according to who the winner was when they quizzed against each other.

TEAM TIE BREAKERS

Teams who tie in wins vs. losses will be ranked according to their score.

If scores are also tied, teams will be ranked according to who the winner was when they quizzed against each other.