

OFFICIAL LEAGUE RULES AND BYLAWS



1) INTRODUCTORY NOTES

All rules, regulations, policies, and procedures were enacted on 6/21/19 at a scheduled meeting of attending coaches. The FY19 league charter and official liaison established with the Professional Association of Georgia Educators, which works as a support organization, continue unabated. These rules are subject to change with an appropriate vote of league coaches, future league meetings, or at the suggestion of PAGE or the League Commissioner and approval of coaches. This document, while considered fluid, should be considered binding for the resolution of immediate rule interpretations, financial obligations, procedures, or disputes.

2) LEAGUE GOVERNANCE

- 1) The authority of the Appalachian Academic Bowl League is retained by the member schools, with head coaches being the representative for each school. This body shall herein be referred to as the **COUNCIL OF COACHES**. All coaches retain individual and equal authority.
- 2) The council of coaches shall elect and/or appoint both a **LEAGUE COMMISSIONER** and a **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER** who shall be granted the powers described in section 3 below.
- 3) The league commissioner and deputy commissioner both work for the council of coaches, which provides checks and balances in both directions. They retain no authority over individual coaches, but are empowered to make authoritative rulings with regard to players and teams.
- 4) The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) will act as a support organization for the Appalachian Academic Bowl League. The PAGE representative will be hereby known as the **PAGE SUPPORT SPECIALIST**.
- 5) The PAGE support specialist will work in conjunction with the league commissioner, especially with regard to financial management, league promotions and diplomacy, and as an informational ombudsman and champion.

6) As described above in rules 1-5, the power for making decisions rests with the league commissioner and council of coaches, and not with PAGE. Teams should understand that the role of PAGE is primarily as an umbrella organization and not as a direct authority.

3) SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS AND ROLES OF LEAGUE OFFICERS

1) The **LEAGUE COMMISSIONER** and the **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER** are selected via the majority vote of the **COUNCIL OF COACHES**. Their respective terms of office, as of 6/21/19, are indefinite in duration, and for the moment, shall be continued, so long as the council of coaches find their performances to be satisfactory. Both officials should be seasoned educators with experience in academic bowl as coaches, players, or both. Active coaches (except on an emergency interim basis) may NOT serve in either role, as this will be deemed a conflict of interest.

2) The **LEAGUE COMMISSIONER** shall be compensated a sum of **\$800 per season**. Dues of league members shall cover this stipend. Each team shall contribute equally to this stipend, as determined by the formula: $\text{PORTION DUE} = \$800 / \text{Number of teams in league}$.

3) The **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER** shall be compensated a sum of **\$300 per season**. Dues of league members shall cover this stipend. Each team shall contribute equally to this stipend, as determined by the formula: $\text{PORTION DUE} = \$300 / \text{Number of teams in league}$.

4) The **LEAGUE COMMISSIONER** is prescribed the following duties by the council of coaches.

A) Serve as a correspondent to the PAGE support specialist for a variety of issues. The commissioner will assist PAGE with collection of dues, financial planning and management, promotion of the league, expansion and recruitment of new members, and logistical planning.

B) Serve as a correspondent with NAQT. The commissioner manages the ordering and distribution of match questions and practice materials to league members. They shall also retain sealed and confidential sets of emergency questions, should the need for these arise late in the season or at the tournament.

C) Assistance of the tournament host school with logistical preparations for the varsity and JV playoff tournaments. Together, they will assign rooms, assure that sufficient materials and personnel are in place, and promote the tournament. The commissioner will make the final order for trophies and ensure that all member schools have fulfilled their obligations.

D) Day-to-day financial management. While PAGE will act as a financial clearinghouse for league dues, the commissioner has the authority to access these funds in order to purchase questions, trophies, plaques, perishable food items, or any other good and sufficient cause for the operation of the league.

E) The commissioner is given the authority to act as the final and decisive arbiter for all matters related to rule interpretation, resolution of disputes, or any necessary discipline of players. These powers include the right to determine whether points are awarded or penalized, even if this means that it changes the outcome of a match. These powers also include the right to suspend individual players for portions of a match, an entire match, or for the season for severe cheating infractions, egregious behavior within the league or at their school setting, or for academic ineligibility.

F) The commissioner should work to promote the league to local media and school stakeholders, assist the PAGE support specialist in the recruitment of new teams, and work in the capacity of an ombudsman.

G) The league commissioner should receive the current events worksheet each week from the deputy commissioner and vet the questions for clarity, correctness, and appropriateness. The league's coaches are determined to avoid political bias and indecency in these topics, and for the prescribed topic formula to be followed. This means that there should be 5 questions over world events, 5 questions over US events, and another 5 questions that may include a la carte topics such as sports, pop culture, business and economics, or other items of interest. The commissioner should select the best 15 questions of the 20 submitted by the deputy commissioner. When the commissioner is satisfied with the quality, they should release these for upcoming match that week.

H) The council of coaches is cognizant of the need for support for the commissioner and should work to support the commissioner in fulfilling duties and making scores and statistics readily available. We recognize the importance of support in both directions.

I) The league commissioner should make use of the deputy commissioner, and may delegate tasks to their deputy as they see fit, with one exception. While the deputy may advise the league commissioner on rulings, the final authority on decision-making duties capacities outlined in E rests with them.

5) The **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER** is prescribed the following duties by the council of coaches:

A) Regular and periodic updates of game scores, league standings, and statistics. While most of these data should autofill from the league Google Doc, the commissioner and deputy shall act as an editor and double-checker.

B) The deputy serves as an assistant to the league commissioner for any and all duties that the commissioner sees fit, with the exception of final decision-making authority.

C) The deputy commissioner is responsible for writing 20 current events questions per week. These should be finished one week before each upcoming match and should

detail events that have occurred within the prior two weeks (unless a particular question is not time-sensitive.....for instance, naming cabinet members of the president, etc.). When finished, these should be submitted to the league commissioner for vetting and release.

D) The deputy, while understood to be involved in support capacities of all types, should especially look to assist the commissioner and coaches in planning the logistics of the league playoff tournament, maintaining statistics and standings, and helping with ordering materials.

E) The deputy should act as a liaison to coaches, media, and school officials as a communicator and promoter.

4) TEAM COMPOSITION

1) A varsity team shall consist of 4 starting members from grades 9-12, but the league STRONGLY encourages teams to limit varsity players to 11th and 12th grade students. A varsity team may have an unlimited number of qualified back-up players on the bench.

2) A junior varsity team shall consist of 4 starting members from 9th and 10th grade ONLY. No 11th or 12th grade students will be allowed to play in a junior varsity match. A junior varsity team may have an unlimited number of qualified back-up players on the bench.

3) In the event that a team has less than 4 players in 1 or 2 above, they may elect to play men down with the number of players they have. As long as one player is sitting for a team, they may commence with the match, be it advised or not.

4) Any underclassman (9th or 10th grade) who is promoted to the varsity team for a match forfeits their JV eligibility from that point forward. The league commissioner should make note of underclassmen who are promoted. Teams may NOT move players back and forth.

5) Each team should have a designated captain.

6) All players should be in good academic and disciplinary standing at their member schools. The same rules for GHSA athletic eligibility will be applied by our league. Students who failed two or more classes during their Spring semester, are on academic probation during the Fall semester, or who have a major disciplinary infraction resulting in suspension should not play until the issue has been resolved. Coaches should work with the league to vet their players. The eligibility of these players is at the sole discretion of the league commissioner, should issues come to light.

7) Coaches should inform the commissioner by the last week of September if they will have a Varsity and/or a Junior Varsity team.

5) GENERAL MATCH PLAY RULES

- 1) One player must be designated team captain at the beginning of each round. This designation should be made known to both coaches before the round begins.
- 2) Substitution of one or more players may be made at the midway point of a game, depending upon the number of questions per round.
- 3) League matches will consist of the following rounds:
 - A) A round of 40 lightning round speed check questions spanning the spectrum of all academic subjects (math, science, literature, history, arts & culture). These shall be worth a total of 400 points.
 - B) A round of 20 toss-up/bonus questions, for which the winner will be awarded bonus questions that follow the theme of the toss-up. The bonuses will consist of a stem toss-up and 2 bonuses. The 3rd bonus in the NAQT packet will not be read, but instead, these will reserved for alternate questions. These shall be worth a total of 600 points.
 - C) A final round of 15 current events questions will consist of questions authored by coaches on bye-week. These shall be worth a total of 150 points.
- 4) Varsity and JV teams will use SEPARATE SETS OF QUESTIONS for the lightning round and for the toss-up/bonus round to compensate for appropriate levels of difficulty.
- 5) Current events will be written by deputy commissioner before the match each week. Questions will be vetted by the league commissioner for political bias, inappropriate topics, and overall quality.
- 6) Current events will consist of 5 world events, 5 USA events, and 5 miscellaneous questions (pop culture, sports, entertainment, economics & business, etc.).
- 7) Both JV and Varsity will use the same set of current events questions.
- 8) Current events questions should reflect events that have occurred within the last 2 weeks of the upcoming match, unless the topic is not time-sensitive in nature.

- 9) For toss up or toss-up/bonus rounds, no more than 4 players may participate at any given time (time outs and substitutions not withstanding).
- 10) All team members are free to participate in current events in arriving at a collective group answer. The team's written answer is the final answer.
- 11) Score checks should be made at the midway point, after rounds, or any time a coach or player requests the score check between questions.
- 12) Reading of questions is the responsibility of coaches at the match, though a reader who is a faculty member or alumnus may be used. This is in recognition of the fact that it is difficult to find experienced readers with topic expertise. Since topics are mixed in the NAQT, consultation may be necessary on debatable answers. Coaches may divide the responsibility of reading however they like.
- 13) Timekeeping will be the responsibility of the coach who is not involved in reading. The coach may elect to assign this responsibility to a RESPONSIBLE and attentive student. If a student repeatedly fails at this responsibility, the coach must take over.
- 14) Scorekeeping, likewise, is the responsibility of coaches, who may elect to assign the duty to a student on their team. BOTH coaches should keep score to reduce the possibility of errors, with the reading coach designating on the question packet, which team answered each question. At the end of play, both coaches must sign the score sheets.
- 15) Scorekeeping should be done using the league-formatted score sheets. These score sheets shall make designations for the players who scored each point and the roster of team members should be imported into all score sheets, once this is known.
- 16) Coaches should input all game data into the PAGE Google Doc within 48 hours of the match. At midnight on Wednesday, following the scheduled Monday match, the document will lock and coaches will be unable to enter scores. Upon this occurrence, coaches must contact the deputy commissioner to enter scores for that week. The Google Doc is the official scorekeeping tally for the league. All coaches must save a PDF or hard copy of the written sheet in case a dispute arises.
- 17) Habitual failure to post scores by weekly deadline of 48 hours following scheduled play is subject to a point-penalty at the discretion of the commissioner.

- 18) Coaches should track individual player scores, since the league hopes to recognize our top players at the end of the year. Failure to do so could mean that one of a team's players goes unrecognized at the end of the season. This is also useful for helping coaches strategize and play their strongest players. Failure to enter individual statistics in a timely manner means forfeiture of recognition and trophy for individual team member.
- 19) All scores MUST be reported to the league deputy commissioner by Wednesday of match week, unless there was some circumstance that required you to play your match later in the week. In that case, coaches should inform the commissioner and deputy commissioner, and send in a score BEFORE the next week of competition, so that standings can be correctly tabulated.
- 20) Spectators are allowed at matches and encouraged. However, spectators and other members of the team MAY NOT interrupt the reader or lodge protests. Spectators should remain reasonably quiet and well-behaved.
- 21) Disruptive and unruly spectators and parents will be warned once. If the behavior persists, they will be asked to leave matches by the reader and escorted out of the room. If the unruly spectator is a team member, they will be suspended for the remainder of the match and may not play. Unruly team members will be reported to the commissioner, who then may elect to enact further discipline if deemed necessary. The violating team will be penalized 20 points.
- 22) All cell phones, smart watches, or other communication devices MUST BE OFF. Players will receive one warning. A second offense will result in the player being disqualified and escorted out of the match room and a penalty of 20 points being assessed to the violating team.
- 23) Teams should arrive at their match within a reasonable time. Any team more than an hour late will be charged with a forfeit loss and receive no points for the match UNLESS REASONABLE PROVISIONS WERE MADE for a make-up date or an explanation of the circumstance proves to be valid. Forfeit winners will be awarded their average number of points in all other matches at the end of division play, so they are not penalized in tournament seeding.
- 24) No team may make up a match for a no-show without prior explanation and approval of the opponent and the league commissioner.

- 25) If a team forfeits a JV match and does NOT notify the opposing team 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE that a JV team will not be in attendance, the opposing team shall have the option of requiring reserve varsity players to play in place of the JV and will STILL receive a forfeit win. JV stats will then count in the individual stat races.
- 26) If a team has more than one JV forfeit, they will lose their invitation to the JV tournament unless their presence is required to balance the brackets.

6) LIGHTNING ROUND RULES

- 1) Any player from either team may answer a toss-up question.
- 2) After a non-computational toss-up has been read, players have five (5) seconds to buzz in. The first player to buzz in must begin his/her answer within three (3) seconds ***after being recognized***. If a player fails to receive recognition, his answer will be disqualified if another player also attempts to answer simultaneously.
- 3) Questions that require mathematical computation have a fifteen (15) second buzz-in time limit; however, the player still must begin his answer within three (3) seconds ***after being recognized***.
- 4) A toss-up question will be read in its entirety only once. If a completed question is answered incorrectly by the first team to buzz in, it will be offered to the opposing team without re-reading. The opposing team has 3 SECONDS to respond and answer after the question is offered to them. Time does NOT start over.
- 5) Any player may buzz in to interrupt the reading of a toss-up question but can give an answer only ***after being officially recognized***.
- 6) If the interrupted toss-up is answered incorrectly or if no answer is given, the opposing team will have the opportunity to hear the remainder of the toss-up question read and to buzz in to answer; the reader will resume reading the question at the point of interruption or at some other logical point before the point of interruption, not necessarily at the beginning of the question.

- 7) No point penalty is assessed for incorrectly answered interrupted toss-up questions. While this is standard procedure in NAQT state and national tournaments, for now, we will not apply the 5 point penalty rule.
- 8) No pauses or thinking breaks may be taken while answering a toss-up. It is at the discretion of the reader as to what constitutes a pause, but generally no one should be allowed more than a half-second pause.
- 9) No conversation or consultation will be allowed on toss-up questions. If, in the judgment of the reader, such occurs, the opposing team and only the opposing team may answer that specific question.
- 10) If a player repeatedly consults teammates after being given an official warning, the reader may elect to remove that player for the remainder of the round. If the consultation came from players on the bench, they will be asked to leave for the round.
- 11) If a reader inadvertently provides the correct answer to a toss-up question following an incorrect answer, that toss-up will be eliminated and the team which did not have an opportunity to answer will receive a replacement toss-up.
- 12) The player will give only one answer. Giving multiple pieces of information relative to the question, hoping to get the correct answer somewhere in the string, is considered an incorrect response.
Example: *A Tale of Two Cities* is one answer; *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens is two answers and is incorrect according to this rule. (This rule also applies to bonus question answers.)
- 13) Each toss-up question has a value of ten points. For now, the league will not play with the 5 point power rule (15 points for a question answered before the boldface prompt in the text is passed). We may revisit this rule at a later date.

7) TOSS-UP BONUS ROUNDS

- 1) All questions start with a toss-up question open to both teams. By answering a toss-up question correctly, a player earns his/her team the first opportunity to answer a two-part bonus question in the toss-up/bonus round.
- 2) Simultaneous consultation among members of *both teams* is permitted on bonus questions, but **NOT** during the toss-up part of the question.

- 3) Teams have a fifteen (15)-second discussion/consultation time limit for all bonus questions. The reader will ask for the answer after “time” is called by the timekeeper.
- 4) Each bonus part will be read only once; each bonus part will be read separately and answered before continuing to the next bonus part.
- 5) In a varsity or junior varsity match, the **team captain must deliver all answers** for a bonus question. He/she must begin his/her answer immediately after it is called for by the reader, with no pauses or thinking breaks.
- 6) Each bonus part answered incorrectly or not answered by the team earning the bonus will be offered (bounced back) immediately to the opposing team; ***with no further prompting***, the opposing team captain must begin answering within three seconds after the reader offers the bonus to him/her.
- 7) If neither team answers part one of the bonus correctly, the reader will not give the correct answer until both teams, if necessary, have had the opportunity to answer part two of the bonus.
- 8) Each bonus question has a combined 20 point bonus potential, netting a possible score of 30 total points. 30 points = 10 point toss-up stem + 10 point bonus A + 10 point bonus B.

8) TIES AND PROTESTS

- 1) In the event of a tied match, an overtime of three tie-breaker toss-up questions will be given. These will be selected from extra questions printed at the end of the NAQT question packet, at the discretion of the reader. The opposing coach may consult with the reader first, if desired.
- 2) If a team answers two questions in the overtime round, they are declared a winner. If a team answers one question and the other team answers none, they are declared to be the winner. In the event of a zero-zero or one-one tie, additional sudden death questions will be read until one team emerges as the victor.
- 3) Protests must be lodged verbally by the coach or an active player. Any protest must be lodged to the reader and settled before the round progresses to the next toss-up

question. In the event a resolution cannot be quickly reached, the issue may be tabled for further research.

- 4) Should the protested question affect the outcome of the match or league standings, the coaches should consult a trusted source of accurate information via another teacher with expertise in the field, the internet, or subject-specific literature and resolve the dispute amicably.
- 5) In the event the protest cannot be settled, the league commissioner will act as a neutral arbitrator. The league commissioner will then make a final ruling on whether or not points will be awarded for the question, after researching the topic. Should the league commissioner's team be involved in the dispute, a neutral outside coach will be selected.
- 6) In the event of a tie at a tournament venue, the two tied teams will be given a seven (7) question tie-breaker set of toss-up questions. If this fails to break the tie, then it becomes a sudden-death circumstance, whereby the first correct answer given to additional questions determines the winner.

9) LEAGUE STANDINGS

- 1) League standings will be provided each week after matches. Therefore, coaches should be sure to submit all scores to the league deputy commissioner by the Wednesday after their match.
- 2) Monday is the official league match day for regular season conference play. In the event that a match cannot be played on Monday, the league commissioner should be informed of the make-up date of the match by that Wednesday.
- 3) Teams are free to re-schedule matches between each other if a conflict prevents a meeting between the teams on Monday. However, the match must be made up during that week or during the bye weeks preceding the final playoff tournament and the commissioner should be informed of the arrangement.

- 4) Score sheets will be provided to each coach by the league commissioner or the PAGE support specialist via website, Google Doc, and/or email. Coaches should print these template sheets for score-keeping during the match.
- 5) At the conclusion of the match, coaches should input their score in the league Google Doc and keep track of the paper score sheet via PDF or filing.
- 6) League standings will be determined according to the following hierarchy:
 - A) Win-Loss Record
 - B) Win-Loss Percentage
 - C) Head-to-Head Record in the event of a tie in standings
 - D) A short round-robin playoff in the event of a 3-way tie (see below)
 - E) Point differential between team and opponents
- 7) At the conclusion of the season, if multiple teams are tied in the standings, then a short playoff round-robin match will be scheduled between the teams. Each team will play the other two teams in one round of toss-up questions.
- 8) For some reason, should the match still not resolve a tie, the point differential for the team vs all opponents (including the playoff match) for the season will be used to determine seeding for the final playoff tournament.
- 9) The league standings at the conclusion of the regular season of play will be used to determine seeding for the round robin segment of the playoff tournament.
- 10) Match scheduling will be finalized and confirmed BEFORE the season begins, ideally by the conclusion of the school year before and no later than the second week of the new school year. Coaches should provide the league commissioner with a copy of their upcoming school calendar, so that conflicts can be worked around.

10) PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT

- 1) The tournament will be split between 2 DAYS this year. BARRING THE NEED for tournament brackets to balance, the bottom 3rd of the league will be eliminated from the tournament. The top 4 teams will play for the league championship title and will all be eligible to participate in the GRAB state championship tournament.
- 2) At the conclusion of the season, teams will be equitably seeded into a playoff tournament according to their final record in division play, according to section 9 rule 6.

- 3) All teams will be seeded into the tournament, based on their place on each side of the bracket. Each EASTERN division team will play the entire WESTERN division and vice versa in the morning round-robin. This may change in the future if the league grows too large, but for now, this allows a more complete picture to emerge in crowing a champ.
- 4) The WIN-LOSS record from the tournament AND the REGULAR SEASON division record will be added together to determine a FINAL SEASON RECORD. For instance, if a team is 5-1 during regular division play and 3-3 in Round Robin play, they will be seeded according to an 8-4 record in the single-elimination rounds.
- 5) The top 8 surviving teams will be seeded by order of finish into a final playoff bracket. This bracket will be single elimination and progress from quarterfinals to semifinals to finals. The winner of the playoff bracket becomes the league champion. The runner-up is the loser of the final match, regardless of their record or regular season standing.
- 6) The championship match will be held in a venue large enough to accommodate spectators and eliminated teams are given the option of watching the match.
- 7) Both varsity and JV teams will be eligible to participate in separate playoff tournaments.
- 8) In each case, the winner of the tournament will be crowned as the league champion. They will be awarded a first place league trophy and will represent the league as champions until the following season begins.
- 9) The team that loses in the championship match will be designated as the 2nd place runner-up and will also receive a 2nd place trophy.
- 10) If the league experiences unusual expansion during the FY20 season, with a large number of teams in the league, the commissioner will have the authority to authorize a play-in for the last two spots in the tournament (the last seed on each side). This is contingent on an unusually large expansion in the league.
- 11) Division awards will be awarded for the regular season, with plaques going to division winners and runners-up.
- 12) Plaques will be awarded for individual league scoring champions in both the JV and varsity leagues.

11) PLAYOFF TOURNAMENT VENUE

- 1) Recognizing the importance of playoff tournaments for potential fundraising, league tournaments will be held at a rotating venue, insomuch that all teams have the opportunity to host a tournament, should they choose to do so.
- 2) The team hosting the tournament keeps profits from the event.
- 3) The inaugural playoff tournament was held at Lumpkin County High School in 2018-19. In FY20, the playoff tournament will be hosted by a school in the East, unless they elect to transfer that right to a Western division school. After this season, a league coach meeting will determine the site of future tournaments. The site will alternate between EASTERN and WESTERN teams unless no team in that division wants to host.
- 4) The site of the tournament is independent of standings and pre-determined during a meeting of the Council of Coaches before the season begins.
- 5) Coaches coordinating playoff tournaments are responsible for working with the PAGE Support Specialist, League Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner to take care of the following responsibilities and arrangements:
 - A) Teams are asked to bring one parent or former player as tournament readers or workers. Tournament readers **MUST BE VETTED** by the commissioner and/or deputy commissioner **PRIOR** to tournament play.
 - B) Coaches must read for their team. Coaches alternate rounds as they see fit. If a coach doesn't want to read, they must bring a **VETTED** reader. Teams are asked to bring one parent or former player as tournament readers or workers.
 - C) Teams should bring one emergency reader to the tournament if there is a possibility that the coach would elect not to read at any point. Again, the reader **MUST** be vetted prior to league play.
 - D) If a team cannot bring a reader to the tournament, they **MUST** notify the commissioner and deputy commissioner **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT**.

E) If a coach elects not to read and the reader the team provided does not pass the vetting process, the reader will follow the providing team throughout the tournament.

F) The host team has the option of providing a lunch break and not selling food. They should inform other teams that they have chosen this option well in advance.

G) Ensuring supervision for the event and procuring the permission of your local school board, principal, or any other administrator that may apply.

H) Arranging publicity for the tournament at your school. You may wish to inform local papers, radio stations, or TV stations about the event.

I) Procuring enough classrooms to hold matches and finding a large central location for the final championship match.

J) Providing directions and parking instructions for opposing teams.

6) It will be the responsibility of ALL TEAMS to bring working buzzer boards for EACH JV and EACH VARSITY team in the tournament. This will ensure a back-up, should one of the boards malfunction.

7) All teams will also be responsible for providing one tournament worker. We will need a total of 12 readers and several scorekeepers. Just one tournament worker from each team will easily make this possible.

12) FINANCES

1) As with any extracurricular activity, there is a set cost of participation. There are several areas where this applies to the Northeast Georgia NAQT League, including:

- Purchase of Copyrighted Question Packets for league members (Varsity and JV)
- Purchase of Copyright Licenses to make reproductions of question packets
- Purchase of Practice Question sets to assist teams in practicing
- Purchase of Copyright Licenses to make reproductions of practice sets
- Stipends for League Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner
- Trophies and Awards for Playoff Tournament

- 2) A final fixed price will be made available to all league members before the beginning of the season. Teams should be prepared to make payment before the first match.
- 3) The PAGE Support Specialist will be designated to collect payment from each team and to provide a fiscal report to the league commissioner. Either may contact member schools about outstanding debts.
- 4) PAGE will maintain a league account, accessible to the commissioner and deputy commissioner. All funds will be used exclusively for league expenses and may be rolled over to the next consecutive season.
- 5) No team will be allowed to compete at the tournament without paying their registration fees in order to meet their financial obligation to the league.
- 6) League fees are strictly non-refundable.
- 7) A quarterly financial report should be made available to all coaches at least once a season, with itemized payments and expenses noted.

13) LEAGUE ETHICS

- 1) All question sets, though viewable by coaches during the match, MAY NOT be opened prior to the match, unless a future agreement among ALL LEAGUE COACHES should make this particular provision. The league commissioner and deputy commissioner may inspect questions at any time, though they obviously must keep content confidential.
- 2) At no time, should ANY coach knowingly coach their team in an unethical manner that would provide advance answers to upcoming questions.
- 3) Should any coach be suspected of unethical coaching and/or cheating, the league commissioner will open an investigation. If the evidence is corroborated, that team will be removed from the league for the remainder of the season and will have to re-apply for admission, subject to the approval of remaining league coaches.
- 4) Any team member caught cheating or helping teammates to answers (with the exception of permissible circumstances during bonus rounds and current events rounds) will immediately be removed from the match and that team will play one player down. They may NOT sub the missing seat. The player will then be referred to the league commissioner for potential discipline.

- 5) Cheating players may be suspended or removed from the league by the league commissioner, should the circumstance prove to be egregious (for instance using a calculator or cheat sheet or reading questions in advance of the match).
- 6) All teams may be provided with the same set of pre-ordered practice questions each year and are free to use the prior season's match questions for practice. Teams are free to order any other study materials from NAQT OTHER than the serial numbers of the question sets being used that year.

14) IMPORTANT LEAGUE DATES

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| 1) INVOICES FOR LEAGUE DUES: | 9/16/19 | Invoices sent to all teams |
| 2) LEAGUE DUES DEADLINE | 10/11/19 | Deadline to pay or make arrangements |
| 3) SCRIMMAGE MATCHES | SEPT | At discretion of coaches |
| 4) FIRST REG SEASON MATCH | 10/28/19 | First day of division play |
| 5) FINAL WEEK REG SEASON | 12/10/19 | Last bye week/make-up week |
| 6) MAKE UP WEEK (IF NEEDED) | 1/13/20 | Make-up week, as needed |
| 6) EAST/WEST CROSSOVER
TOURNAMENT | 1/18/20 | Saturday playoff tournament |
| 7) AAL CHAMPIONSHIP
TOURNAMENT | 1/25/20 | Saturday championship tournament |
| 7) STATE TOURNAMENT | MARCH | TO BE DETERMINED |
| 8) NAQT NATIONALS | APRIL / JUNE | April = Small School / June = Reg Champ |