



2011 Middle School Championship Tournament Format

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Preliminary Games (Saturday):

The 36 teams will be divided into 4 brackets of 9 teams each. NAQT will attempt to balance the brackets in terms of team ability and will also try to ensure geographic diversity so that teams are not placed in the same bracket as their local rivals (or classmates).

Each bracket will play a round-robin schedule. This will take 9 rounds, during which each team will play 8 games and have a single bye round. If the final field has fewer than 36 teams, some teams may receive a forfeit win over the missing team, though no team will receive 2 forfeit wins. The schedule for these games will be found in the team folder handed out at registration. During bye rounds, a team may watch other games (in or out of its bracket) as each round will have different questions.

Qualifying for the Playoffs:

The top three teams from each bracket will qualify for the playoffs. Within each bracket, teams will be ranked by wins (counting forfeit wins, if any).

If there is a tie for third place (considering only win-loss records), NAQT will play one or more tiebreaker games on Saturday immediately after the conclusion of the round robin games. This tiebreaker round is officially round 10, but most teams will not compete in it.

If two teams are tied for third place, the tiebreaker will be a standard game.

If three teams are tied for third place, the bottom two teams (by points per tossup heard) will play a half game (untimed, 12 tossups, with bonuses); the winner will then play the best team in a half game. The winner of the second half game will enter the playoffs.

If three teams are tied for second place, the top two teams (by points per tossup heard) will play a half game; the winner will enter the playoffs. Then the loser will play the worst team in a half game. The winner of the second half game will also enter the playoffs.

In more complicated situations, NAQT will implement a tiebreaker using at most one packet of questions that will not exclude a team on the basis of statistics (i.e., points scored, as opposed to wins), but which may advantage team with better statistics.

Ties that don't affect the playoffs (i.e., that don't involve third place), will not be played off. The 12 playoff teams will be ranked by wins (breaking ties by points per tossup heard) and assigned to the 12 playoff spots (without regard to their original brackets).

Playoffs (Sunday):

The playoffs will be a double-elimination tournament among the best 12 teams from Saturday's play. Once a team has been eliminated from the overall playoffs (i.e., has lost twice), it is welcome to play in the consolation rounds. Pairings for the first round of playoff games will be posted outside the Gatwick room by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.

Playoff seeds will not be altered to prevent repeat matches or to prevent teams from the same school from facing each other; the playoff bracket will proceed as originally drawn up.

Overall Finals:

There are two possible cases depending on the results of Round 15 (the fifth round on Sunday). In Round 15, the last undefeated team will play a one-loss team, while the other match will involve two one-loss teams.

- If the undefeated team wins Round 15, it will have the upper hand in an advantaged final against the other winning team from Round 15. That is, the other team will need to win two straight games in Rounds 16 and 17 to claim the title. The two losing teams from Round 15 will meet in Round 16 to play for third place.
- If the undefeated team ("A") loses Round 15, the final will be a three-team, two-game affair. The two winners in Round 15 will face each other in Round 16 for the right to play team A in a one-game final in Round 17.

Overall Rankings:

All teams eliminated in the same round of the overall playoffs will be considered tied. Other ties remaining in the overall rankings will be broken by points-per-tossup-heard.

Consolation Rounds:

In parallel with the overall playoffs, informal consolation scrimmage rounds will be offered to teams that did not make the playoffs (or who have been eliminated from the playoffs). These will start 15 minutes after the first playoff round. Teams will be able to select their own opponents during these rounds and they will have no effect on teams' overall finish.

Individual Trophies:

The top 12 individual scorers will receive All-Star awards, and the top 4 non-8th-graders who are not All-Stars will receive Rising Star awards. Individual awards will be given on the basis of points-per-tossup-heard in the preliminary (Saturday) rounds; players must have a minimum of 100 tossups heard to be eligible for individual awards.