

Instructions for Oral Competition (Judges)

Judging an oral competition is, and to some extent should be, a subjective process. However, the following is a checklist to be used in evaluating the presentation. Judges should fill in the question number and maximum possible points on their judging sheets.

- Knowledge (0-15 points) – the maximum points per question is given on the question sheet.
 - Is a general overview of the material presented?
 - Is an appropriate approach to the solution of the problems used?
 - Is the logic correct?
 - Is correct vocabulary and notation used?
 - Are relevant theorems, axioms, etc. used and mentioned when they would contribute to a desired result?
 - Are judges' questions answered adequately?
- Presentation (0-10 points)
 - ◆ Introduction/Conclusion (2 points maximum)
 - ◆ Verbal Skills/Eye Contact (2 points maximum)
 - ◆ Use of Board/Visual (2 points maximum)
 - ◆ Clarity/Professionalism/Organization/other (4 points maximum)

The oral competition consists of two timed segments:

- Students have a total of seven minutes of uninterrupted time to present their answers to previously completed questions.
- Judges then have three minutes to ask questions about the student presentation.
- If there are no questions, the student may continue his/her presentation (if not finished) for a maximum total of 10 minutes.

Judges will score in a manner similar to that shown on the Sample Judge's Sheet. Point values for each question will be given on the questions and judges solutions.

Comments and suggestions by the judges are important to the mathletes if they are to improve themselves. The judges must therefore justify their scores by making **positive, appropriate comments on the score sheets**, along with **positive suggestions** for future improvement.

A score of zero should be given only in the event that a school does not send a representative to participate. No student who gives a bonafide presentation should receive a score of zero.

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Comments should be written carefully on both a complimentary level as well as a helpful one. Negative comments should **not** be placed on the judge's sheet, but rather should be forwarded directly to the coach of the student.

The oral judges' sheet should be used to make comments toward the student participating in oral competition. No comments to the coaches regarding coaching style should be placed on the judges' sheets. These types of comments should be done verbally directly to the coach of the student.

Observers (including coaches) may be present in the presentation room if they have the permission of one of the coaches from the contestant's school.

The opinions of the judges are incontestable.

There are no ties in orals at conference finals except for perfect orals. Judges must break all other ties.