

JUDGES' INSTRUCTIONS – ORAL JUDGES  
UPDATED 2006

PLEASE READ PRIOR TO THE START OF THE COMPETITION!!

STUDENTS MAY NOT WEAR HEADSETS DURING THE COMPETITION.

1. Upon entering the presentation room, the contestant should introduce himself briefly (write name and school in the upper corner of the chalkboard).
2. Each student is to have 7 minutes of uninterrupted presentation time. At the end of 6 minutes the student is to receive a cue notifying him that he has 1 minute to complete his presentation. At the end of 7 minutes, the student should stop and ask whether or not the judges have any question up to this point. Questions relative to what the contestant has presented should be the only type asked by the judges. They should not quiz on material that has not been discussed by the student. If there is still time left after answering the questions or if there are no questions, the contestant may continue the presentation to complete the 10-minute period. Note: The presentation period should never exceed 10 minutes.
3. 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 problem(s) used?
    - Are the facts correct?
    - 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 and other (4 points maximum)
4. 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.
5. Students may bring a calculator into the presentation room for the purpose of answering judges' questions during the 3-minute questioning period. **No qwerty-keyboard calculators or calculators capable of symbolic algebra are allowed.**
6. 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.**
7. 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 presentation should receive a score of zero.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The opinions of the judges are incontestable.