

*HEBRON MINISTRIES*

**OFFICIAL JBQ**

**RULEBOOK**

**ADDENDUMS FOR 2023**

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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 JBQ quizzers must be between the ages of 6–12.

The cut-off date for a quizzers' age is July 15. (The old cut-off date of October 31 will also be accepted for this year only.) The quizzers' age by this date will determine if he qualifies or not to participate in a given category.

*Note:* There are certain exceptions in which 5 year olds will be allowed to participate. This will depend on the child's level of maturity and will be decided between the local coordinator, coach, and parents. Many times five year olds are not mature enough to sit for long periods of time and will more often than not end up receiving fouls for their team.

## REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS

1. A team is allowed one head coach and a maximum of one assistant coach.
2. JBQ coaches must be at least 16 years old.
3. JBQ assistant coaches must be at least 16 years old.
4. JBQ officials must be at least 18 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 JBQ Study Guide*
  - b. *Official 2010 Junior Bible Quiz Rulebook*
  - c. *Official JBQ Rulebook Addendums*

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

8. New officials cannot be used as Quizmasters, unless there is no other option.
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 their pastor. If the official does not or is not able to change his unacceptable behavior, they 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 quizzer 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 quizzer 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 JBQ Rulebook*, the *Official JBQ Study Guide*, and the *Official JBQ Rulebook Addendums*. (If the quizzer’s answer seems to agree with all of the rules, but there is still a doubt, then the officials should give the quizzer the benefit of the doubt. On the other hand, if the quizzer’s answer is clearly violating a rule, quizzers should not be given 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 regards 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 determining 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 required 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.

A maximum of two substitutes is allowed per team. (Please remember that having substitutes is not always recommended.)

- 2.** For **LEAGUE FINALS**, teams are required to be formed by bringing together the strongest quizzers. The goal is to have the strongest team(s) possible to increase the chances of qualifying a team(s) to compete in the National Final. (An exception to this rule is when it is impossible for two of the top four scoring quizzers to get along and compete together. In this situation, the pastor may authorize a change of team for one of the quizzers.)

Weaker quizzers are still encouraged to compete in the League Final as they will be gaining valuable quizzing experience. Their effort will be rewarded with a participation medal in the Awards Ceremony. Additionally, by quizzing in the League Final, they will be fulfilling one of the requirements to attend the National Final Fun Days. Please help weaker quizzers understand these details. Also consider setting individual goals for the competition and rewarding quizzers if they accomplish their goal.

A maximum of two substitutes is allowed per team. (Please remember that having substitutes is not always recommended.)

3. Once the League Final is over, churches may need to make changes to their team(s). These changes will depend on the accumulative scores of all the quizzers. These accumulative scores will determine if a quizzer will or will not qualify to quiz on an eligible team for the National Final. (See points 4–8 below.)
4. When forming a team(s) for the **NATIONAL FINAL**, all quizzers must be chosen and placed by their accumulative scores. These are obtained by following the instructions for *one* of the two options listed below. The option that is chosen must be authorized by the local pastor. Once an option is chosen, *all* quizzer scores must be calculated accordingly.

**OPTION A:**

- ADD all points from the League Meet.
- ADD all points from the League Final.
- ADD all points from practice matches after the League Final and before team registration for the National Final.

*Note:* Option A is less time consuming as it takes into account all points scored, regardless of the skill level required to obtain them.

**OPTION B:**

- Only add the points from the League Meet and League Final as specified below.
- Login to bqhebron.com.
- Scroll and click on the official competition for your region.
- Click on **Quizzers**.
- Click on the quizzer’s name to pull up an individual quizzer evaluation.
- ADD points from **Total Points From Quiz Forwards**.
- SUBTRACT points from **Fouls**.
- ADD points from **Questions Interrupted Correct**.
- SUBTRACT half of the points from **Questions Not interrupted Incorrect**.
- SUBTRACT half of the points from **Questions Interrupted Incorrect**.
- DISREGARD all other points.
- ADD points from **Questions Interrupted Correct** from all practice matches after the League Final and before team registration for the National Final. Using your saved matches from the scoring program, remove points from all correctly answered re-read questions and all correctly answered uninterrupted questions. (If your League Meet is local, be sure to also use this same method to calculate quizzer’s points.)

*Note:* Option B is more time consuming, but it also gives a more accurate picture of how quizzers perform. The strongest quizzers are the ones who can get interrupted, or initial-read questions, because that takes a great deal of skill. Any positive points that come from re-reads are considered “Free Gifts,” and should be disregarded.

5. If a high-scoring quizzer is unable to participate in either the League Meet or League Final due to an emergency or justifiable absence, their pastor can authorize their missing score to be calculated by figuring the quizzer's average per round during their local church practices.
6. Not all quizzers specialize in answering questions from all three categories of questions (10, 20, and 30 pointers). In this situation, highest scoring quizzers may be chosen from each of the three categories.

**Example:** Select the first two active quizzers by choosing from the group of quizzers who answer 20 and 30 pointers and have the highest accumulative scores. From this same group of quizzers (20 and 30 pointers), place as substitutes the quizzers who obtained third and fourth highest scores. These substitutes will enter the match when a teammate (answering questions from the same category) quizzes out.

The third active quizzer can be chosen by taking into account the scores from quizzers only answering 10 point questions. The third substitute would be the second best quizzer from this 10 point category, and would enter the match when the active 10 point quizzer quizzes out. (The fourth active quizzer and substitute are chosen in the same way.)

7. A church qualifying to take *two* teams to Nationals will not be allowed to place one of the four top scoring quizzers on Team #2. All four top scoring quizzers *must* be placed on Team #1. (The only exception to this rule is in situations when it is impossible for two of the top four 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 four top scoring quizzers (quizzers 5–8) 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 each quizzer's total accumulative scores.

8. 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 Points** (per round) must be considered. This average can be found on [bqhebron.com](http://bqhebron.com). Click on the official competition for your region. Then, click on **Quizzers**.

If the internet is not available, calculate the average 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, a 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 10 rounds and accumulated a total of 250 points, he has an average of 25 points per round. Add both averages for a total score of 75 points. Then add the quizzer's average per round during practice times *after* the League Final. This new number becomes the official score used to consider the quizzer's placement on a National Final team.



9. Every church must be able to show accurate proof of accumulative quizzers scores and placement for all those competing in Nationals.

Any team that does not follow these restrictions and guidelines will be penalized 100 points per affected round.

10. For the National Final, a coach is not allowed to seat a high scoring quizzers 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 quizzers) or bring a substitute into the match unless he is replacing an active quizzers who has quizzed out forwards, backwards, or fouled out.

The only exceptions to this rule are if a top-scoring quizzers: a) gets sick, b) requests to be taken out of a match, c) is not buzzing in due to excessive nervousness, d) has quizzed out backwards in two consecutive rounds, e) has a bad attitude, f) consistently refuses to listen to the coach to work for a team win and not just an individual score, g) has a bad testimony, or h) 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* slip. The coach must be able to present this permission slip to the officials.

## **TEAM ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

Any quizzers between the ages of 6–9 can choose how they would like to be seated whether it's kneeling, squatting, or sitting.

If preferred, quizzers are allowed to sing their answer.

## **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 that they leave the room.

Once the match has started no one is allowed to enter the room until the match has officially closed.

## **READING STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS IN A MATCH**

1. The Quizmaster should *not* read any information given in a parenthesis when reading the question. Information in a parenthesis is only for study purposes.

2. A question is interrupted when the quizzer buzzes in before the first sound of the last word found before the parenthesis. For example, the following question *is* interrupted if the quizzer buzzes in before the first sound of the word “plan.”

*How does the Feast of Unleavened Bread remind me of God’s plan (as revealed in the second day of creation)?*

## **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 coach has requested a judges’ ruling to void and substitute a question due to *obvious* help or hindrance and the officials are not willing to grant the request.
- c. The officials have ruled as correct a question that is obviously incorrect or vice versa.
- d. The officials are not willing to reread an interrupted question.

## **FOULS**

1. Quizzers should *not* be fouled for smiling unless the officials determine by majority vote that the quizzer was improperly helping or hindering team members.
2. With the exception of first year quizzers, any active quizzer who turns around during any part of the match (excluding time-out’s and judges’ rulings) *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 should kindly and respectfully bring this to the officials' and coordinator's attention *at the end* of the match. If the team coach 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. All inactive quizzers and coaches may communicate non-verbally at any time among themselves, as long as they do not hinder the match. Substitutes and coaches will not be fouled for non-verbal communication unless they are hindering the match. (For example, if a coach signals to the quizzer to be quiet, a quizzer turns to look at his coach, or vice-versa, the team will *not* be fouled.)
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.

## JUDGES' RULING

1. A coach is allowed to use the *Official JBQ Rulebook*, the *Official JBQ Study Guide*, and/or the *Official JBQ Rulebook Addendums* to support their request for a judges' ruling.
2. A judges' ruling must be called before the calling of the next question, before a time-out is permitted, or before the match is closed.

## QUOTATION QUESTIONS

When a quizzer *repeats* a syllable, word, 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.

## JUDGING STUDY GUIDE QUESTION COMPLETIONS

1. The completion of an interrupted question is correct when it asks the same basic question containing at least the essential parts of the question. See the examples below.

**A. QUESTION:** *What are the four Gospels in the New Testament?*

The quizzer interrupts the question and completes it like this:  
(What are) "the four Gospels?"

The quizzer's question completion is correct. The quizzer is still asking the same basic question.

**B. QUESTION: *God called Abram to take what journey?***

The quizzer interrupts the question and completes it like this:  
(God called) "Abraham to take what journey?"

The quizzer's question completion is correct. By finishing the question with "Abraham" instead of "Abram," the quizzer is still asking the same basic question.

**Note:** The quizzer is only allowed to interchange names if he does *not* give incorrect information while doing so.

Example: If the quizzer interrupts the question below after "does" and completes it with "Abraham" instead of "Abram", his answer will be incorrect. "Abraham" and "Abram" do not mean the same thing.

***What does Abram mean?***  
*Arrogant (proud) father*  
*(Genesis 11:26)*

**C. QUESTION: *In bitter experiences, what opportunity do I have?***

The quizzer interrupts the question and completes it like this:  
(In bitter) "experiences, what opportunities do I have?"

The quizzer's question completion is correct. The quizzer is still asking the same basic question. (When we are given the "opportunity" to know the Lord, that experience, or "opportunity", can include a number or a group of things. In this example, it includes two things.)

**D. QUESTION: *How did the animals come to the ark and what do I learn from that?***

The quizzer interrupts the question and completes it like this:  
(How did the animals) "come to the ark?"

The quizzer's question completion is incorrect. Since this question is a two-part question, the second question is considered an essential part that must be included in the quizzer's question completion.

2. The quizzer is *not* required to give all of the key words when completing an interrupted question. The quizzer's completion is correct even when he has reduced the question down to the fewest words necessary to still ask the same basic question.

## JUDGING STUDY GUIDE ANSWER COMPLETIONS

1. The quizzer is not required to give any word(s) enclosed in parentheses or in brackets. This information is optional.
2. The quizzer can choose to substitute any word in parentheses with the previous, similar word, or he can choose to use both. (Words enclosed in parentheses only appear in non-Quotation Questions.) See example below.

*Whose words should I be reading (eating) every day and why?  
I should be reading (eating) the words that Jesus speaks to me, because they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63)*

3. The quizzer can choose to substitute any word in brackets with the previous, similar word, but he *cannot* choose to use both. He must answer with either one or the other. (Words enclosed in brackets only appear in Quotation Questions.) See example below.

**QUOTATION QUESTION.** *What did God make on the second day of creation?  
And God said, Let there be a firmament [a heaven] in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters ... and it was so. (Genesis 1:6–7)*

In this example, the quizzer must either answer "...Let there be a firmament in the midst..." or "...Let there be a heaven in the midst..." but not "...Let there be a firmament, a heaven, in the midst ..."

4. The quizzer *is* required to give all of the key words in his answer. See example below.

*What did Rebekah do for the camels?  
She drew water out of the well and gave them to drink. (Genesis 24:19–20)*

The quizzer answers, "She drew water out and gave them to drink."  
The quizzer's answer is incorrect. The key word "well" has been left out of the answer. "Well" is a key word clarifying the source of the water.

## **USING A POINT OF ORDER**

It is important that quizzers learn to be obedient and follow instructions given them by their coach. If a quizzer is *not* obeying what he is told, the coach should penalize him by removing him from the match and sitting him on the bench. How long the quizzer sits out, whether it's a few questions or the whole match, will be dependent on what his pastor has previously instructed the coach. A time-out must be used to bring the quizzer back into the match.

## **VOIDING AND REPLACING QUESTIONS**

A substitute question is read to both teams when there was obvious "help or hindrance" (as in bleeding) from the Quizmaster.

Officials should not take the initiative to void a question due to "help or hindrance" in either a League Final or National Final.

## **ANNOUNCING SCORES**

Once the match has closed, individual and team scores should be announced from the official score sheet in the following order:

- a. Second individual high scorer
- b. First individual high scorer
- c. All other positive individual points
- d. Second place team
- e. First place team

Before teams sign to accept the official score, they should notify the Quizmaster if they found any discrepancies. If needed, points and/or fouls that were awarded to the wrong quizzer may be corrected at this time.

## **REFERENCE REQUIREMENTS**

1. At official competition, the quizzer is not required to include the reference in his Quotation Question answer. This is optional.
2. When giving the reference for the Memorization PLUS Awards, the quizzer is *not* required to give a letter that might come after the verse number. The quizzer is only required to give the book, the chapter, and verse number(s). See the example below.

**QUOTATION QUESTION.** *According to Proverbs, why is it important to seek the Lord?  
They that seek the Lord understand all things. (Proverbs 28:5b)*

In this example, the quizzer would not be required to say “b” as part of the reference.

3. When giving the reference for the Memorization PLUS Awards, the quizzer is not required to give information regarding the Scripture version. See the example below.

**QUOTATION QUESTION.** *How does the book of Proverbs describe both the lazy and the diligent man?  
The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. (NKJV, Proverbs 13:4)*

In this example, the quizzer would not be required to say “NKJV” as part of the reference.

4. When giving the reference for the Memorization PLUS Awards, the quizzer should only give the first reference listed in an answer. See the example below.

**QUOTATION QUESTION.** *How did the children of Israel pass through the Red Sea?  
By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land.  
(Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14:15–16)*

In this example, the quizzer should only say “Hebrews 11:29.” He would not be required to say “Exodus 14:15–16” as part of the reference.

## **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" is considered any prayer time together with the team and/or isolating the team in order to do so. 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**

If teams are divided into two separate groups for a competition, with top teams from each group advancing to the final rounds, high scorers will be chosen by taking into consideration both the original round robin and the final rounds.

## **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.