

## National History Bee Rules Sheet

Thank you for participating in today's National History Bee State Tournament! This document is intended as an outline of the rules of the competition. If you have specific questions regarding more detailed aspects of the rules, please ask a tournament official.

The State History Bee is played in two sections – Preliminaries and Finals. During the Preliminary Section, you will be playing against up to 7 other students in an individual, buzzer-based competition in a race to answer up to 8 tossup questions out of a set of 35. Each correct tossup answer will earn you one point. Once you reach 8 correct answers, you will earn bonus points based on how quickly you reach the 8<sup>th</sup> right answer. There are 3 preliminary rounds, so 105 total questions.

The bonus for answering 8 correctly on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> tossup is 5 points. For reaching the 8 count on tossups 16 through 20, you earn 4 points. Finishing your 8 between tossup 21 and 25 will gain 3 points, between 26 and 30 will get you 2 bonus points, and between 31 and 35 will get you 1 bonus point.

To prevent matches from going on too long, three incorrect answers will end the opportunity to answer a particular tossup. **If the reader is still reading the question, and you give the third incorrect answer, you will be deducted one point.** If the reader has finished reading the question, there is no penalty. There is no penalty for giving either the first or the second incorrect answer.

The reader will wait three seconds after he or she has finished reading the question before calling it dead and moving on to the next. The reader will allow you three seconds after you have buzzed in to give your answer. You need not be recognized before you give your answer, although it is advisable to wait. Timing decisions are not protestable. If you wish to protest, you may bring it to the reader's attention immediately, then fill out a protest form at the end of the round.

If the reader botches a question, then there are makeup questions included with each round that can be used.

After the Preliminary rounds are over, the top 10 scoring individuals will move into the Finals Section, which occurs in three phases. The first **FIVE** players to reach a score of +3 advance to the next phase. Scores then reset to zero. In the second phase, the first **TWO** players to reach a score of +4 advance to the last phase. Scores, again, reset to zero. At this point, since there are only two players, there are no penalties for any wrong answer. The first player to answer **FIVE TOSSUPS CORRECTLY** will win today's competition.

Good luck!