ALABAMA SCHOLASTIC CHALLENGE

*Sponsored by Alabama Scholastic Competition Association
2019-2020 Procedures*

1. **School Eligibility:** Elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in Alabama are invited to participate in the *Alabama Scholastic Challenge.* The elementary, middle, junior varsity, and high school tournaments are open to both public and private schools. No school may enter more than one team for each level of play (elementary, middle, junior varsity, or high school). Home schooled teams shall show evidence of eligibility. An ASCA member must sponsor the team.
2. **AISA Members**: AISA schools must join ASCA in order to compete in the AISA and ASCA tournament series. They may then choose to compete either in the AISA district and state tournaments or in the ASCA district tournament in order to qualify for the ASCA state tournament. Schools that have not notified ASCA of their choice by November 30 will automatically be entered in the AISA tournament series. The first place teams from the AISA state tournaments will receive automatic bids to the ASCA state tournaments. All teams competing in either the AISA state tournaments or the ASCA district tournaments will be considered for wildcard spots in the ASCA state tournaments. Wildcard teams will be chosen based on average points scored per round in the AISA state or ASCA district tournaments. AISA schools are also eligible to compete in the ASCA junior varsity tournament series.
3. **Player Eligibility:** Players must be enrolled at the represented school or play for a direct feeder school and must be in 6th grade or lower for elementary school, 8th grade or lower for middle school, 10th grade or lower for junior varsity, and 12th grade or lower for high school.  Students who play up shall be permitted to play in multiple state events, provided they are not held on the same day and that there are no conflicts due to question overlap.  Teams that play ineligible players shall, at a minimum, forfeit any rounds in which the ineligible students competed. This rule is subject to the limits of Rule 4 below.
4. **Feeder Schools:** In the case of a school that has eligibility to field a team at multiple levels of play but which feeds into a larger school that plays at a level overlapping that of the feeder school, the feeder school shall be required to choose to either compete as a stand-alone school OR to compete as part of the larger school it feeds into. Should it choose to compete independently, it may field a team for each event but may NOT contribute players to the school it feeds into for any ASCA event that year. Should it choose to share players with the larger school, it may not have its own team for any level of play shared with the larger school, although it may continue to compete independently at levels open to that school alone. Feeder schools may change their decisions from year to year without penalty.
5. **Special Needs Players**: ASCA encourages participation by all students. It is the responsibility of coaches to notify tournament directors *in advance* of players who have special needs. Provided that said notification is made, the tournament director shall have leeway to make accommodations as he or she deems appropriate to meet the needs of the player in question. The tournament director shall be the arbiter of the necessity and scope of such changes, *which may not be protested.*
6. **High School Divisions**: High school teams will play in either Division I or Division II. Schools in AHSAA Classes 5A, 6A, and 7A as well as all selective public and private schools will compete in Division I. Public schools in AHSAA Classes 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A will compete in Division II. If a feeder school chooses to play independently of its larger high school, it shall play in the same competitive division as its high school.
7. **Competition Dates:** Middle School Competition Dates: Fourth Saturday in January (District), fourth Saturday in February (State)Junior Varsity Competition Dates: Thursday and Friday before the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend (District), fourth Saturday in February (State)
High School Competition Dates: Second Friday in February (District), second Friday in April (State). If the second Friday in April is Good Friday, the tournament coordinator will determine and announce the date at the beginning of the season.
8. **Tournament Assignments**: The state coordinator, with assistance from the Board, assigns teams to district tournaments based on geographical proximity and randomly groups teams into pools for round robin play. The number of teams advancing from each district will be determined by the state tournament coordinator based on the size of the field at each site. The state coordinator, using results provided by district hosts, will create state tournament pools for high schools and middle schools. Teams will be placed in pools in alternating fashion **based on their points per game (PPG) average from district play**, with the team with the top average being placed in pool one, the team with the second best average being placed in pool two, the team with the third best average being placed in pool three, and so forth until all teams are placed. Win/loss records will **not** be considered in the seeding process. For the purpose of pool placement, ties will be broken based on a coin flip.
9. **Pool Winners:** Pool winners shall be determined based on win-loss record. In the event that two teams are tied for the same place, the team that won the head-to-head match between those two teams will be ranked ahead of the other team. If three or more teams are tied for the same place, the following tiebreaking factors will be applied in order until one team is ranked lower than the other teams in the tie. As long as teams remain tied, the tiebreaking factors will be reapplied from the beginning until all teams have been ranked. In case of forfeiture of rounds, all rounds revert to forfeit status for the sake of averaging.
* Win/Loss record.
* Head-to-head competition.
* Average number of points per round played.
* Point differential in all matches(total points a team scores minus the total points scored against that team)
* Coin toss.
1. **Wildcards:** The Board determines the number, if any, of wildcard teams necessary to fill out a State tournament field. Additional wildcard teams may replace qualifying teams that choose not to continue to the next competition level. Wildcard teams are drawn from the state as a whole based on points per game average and need not come from a specific district.
2. **Play-offs:** The tournament coordinator, after consultation with Board members, will announce in advance the number of teams advancing to the playoff at the State tournaments. Pool winners will advance automatically. Additional playoff qualifiers may be selected from the remaining teams based solely on points per game. Points per game average from pool play will be used to determine bracket seeding.
3. **State Tournament Finals:** When two teams have advanced to the finals of the state tournament, the champion of the tournament shall be determined by playing a “best of three,” including preliminary matches between the two teams, with the first team to win two games being declared the winner. All normal ASCA rules shall apply during these games, including the rules for sudden death tiebreakers.
4. **Team Awards**: The State champion and three runners-up receive trophies. Depending on the availability of funds, ASCA will award cash prizes, to the first, second, third, and fourth place teams at the High School Division I, High School Division II, and Middle School tournaments as follows:

▪ First place - $500.00
▪ Second place - $300.00
▪ Third place - $200.00
▪ Fourth place - $100.00

The first place team at the Junior Varsity state tournament will be awarded $200.00.

1. **Individual Awards**: The top six individual scorers in each High School Division, the top six individual scorers in Junior Varsity, the top twelve scorers in Middle School, and the top six individual scorers in the Elementary Division will be named to their respective All-Tournament Teams. The selections will be made based on individual points per game in the preliminary rounds of the State tournaments. Each member of the All-Tournament Teams will receive a medal.
2. **Certification of Tournament Results**: The ASCA president or a designee will be on call for all tournaments. While the results of the tournament will be unofficially announced on site, results will remain unofficial until certified by the ASCA board and posted on the ASCA website.
3. **Additional Awards for National Tournaments**: ASCA may, at the Board’s discretion, provide financial assistance to the High School Division I and Division II champions to attend the national championship tournament of their choice. The award will be made to the school upon presentation of proof of payment for the tournament.
4. **Classification Championships**: In addition to awarding trophies to the overall state champion and three runners-up, trophies will also be awarded at the State Tournament to the champion of each classification (1A through 7A non-selective public schools and an additional class for all private and/or selective schools) represented by at least one State qualifier.

A classification championship can be earned in any of the following ways:
▪ Being the only team in one's class to qualify for the State Tournament
▪ Defeating all of the other teams in one's classification head-to-head in the preliminary rounds
▪ Being the only team in one's class to advance to the State Semifinal round
▪ Being the only team in one's class to advance to the State Final rounds
▪ Winning the State Tournament Finals
▪ Defeating the only remaining team in one's class in the Consolation Round
5. **Classification Championship Rankings**: If no team earns a classification championship outright by any of the situations described in Rule 6, then the teams in that class will be ranked for participation in the Class Championship Finals. The ranking will be made using the following factors successively. Once a team has been ranked, the next highest-ranked team will be chosen by re-applying the factors from the beginning. Ties will be broken by moving to the next factor in the list until one team can be ranked higher than all of the other teams in the tie.

▪ Teams that qualified for the State Playoff
▪ Preliminary win-loss record
▪ Head-to-head preliminary matches, if any
▪ Average points per game
▪ Point differential
▪ Coin toss

1. **Classification Championship Finals**: If necessary, once the top two teams from a class have been selected, the classification champion shall be determined by playing a “best of three” between those two teams, including preliminary matches, with the first team to win two games being declared the winner. A team that qualified for the State Playoff will receive a one-game advantage in the best of three; if both teams advanced to the State Playoff, the Classification Finals will consist of no more than one game. All normal ASCA rules shall apply during these games, including the rules for sudden death tiebreakers.
2. **Classification Championship Eligibility**: All schools in Alabama, including public, private, and selective public schools, are eligible for a classification championship. However, AISA member schools that compete in the AISA tournament series, even if they qualify for the ASCA State Tournament based on AISA State Tournament performance, are considered to have competed in their own classification with the AISA State Tournament serving as its championship and are not eligible for an ASCA classification championship. For non-selective public schools, classification will be made based on current attendance-based Alabama High School Athletic Association classifications. Schools that are eligible but do not have a current classification will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for classification. All private and/or selective public schools, regardless of AHSAA classification, will compete in the Private/Selective Class.
3. **Sportsmanship**: ASCA expects players and coaches to represent the state and their schools with honor and respect. Players or coaches who violate this standard through fraud, cheating, impropriety, or poor sportsmanship will be ejected from the tournament and may be sanctioned or banned from future ASCA events. Any such incident will be promptly reported to the ASCA board.
4. **Cheating**: Under ASCA rules, cheating shall be defined as a situation that meets all of the following criteria:
* Having an unfair knowledge of the question content, either by seeing questions in advance, playing on questions at a previous event, or receiving answer lines ahead of a match,
* Players and/or coaches being aware of this issue, or having a reasonable expectation of being aware of the issue based on situation or experience,
* **Players and/or coaches failing to immediately self-report this situation upon recognition of those circumstances.**
1. **Participation in Independent Academic Tournaments**: ASCA encourages its member schools to host independent academic tournaments, sometimes referred to as “invitational” tournaments, and to participate in such tournaments hosted by others. ASCA assumes no responsibility for these events, even events that choose to use ASCA’s rules and/or procedures. However, participants in and hosts of such events are still expected to adhere to a high standard of conduct and sportsmanship in accordance with ASCA’s rules. While tournament hosts shall be primarily responsible for adjudication at their events, the ASCA Executive Board reserves the right to enact penalties affecting a school’s Alabama Scholastic Challenge participation if it becomes aware of misconduct committed by that school at any academic tournament.
2. **Question Security**: If a Bye-Room is provided, questions will be provided by the tournament director one round at a time. If an official moderator for the bye-room is not provided, then the coach will receive the questions from the tournament director upon request. Questions will be returned to the tournament director at the end of the bye round. In addition, the tournament director and moderators will keep all questions secure at all times.