

Information for Coaches

Vancouver Island Regional Math Challengers Competition
Friday, February 23, 2024, Camosun College Interurban Campus

We are extremely grateful to our local sponsors:

- Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (EGBC)
- Camosun College
- Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS)
- Operation Trackshoes (for hosting our documents on the web)

This is meant to supplement the information that's on the Math Challengers web site, <http://www.mathchallengers.ca/>.

For liability reasons, we are unable to accept responsibility for your competitors. Therefore, it is our requirement that there be at least one adult from your school present at all times.

Team names: if, for example, SMUS sends two grade 9 teams, we'll name them SMUS 1 and SMUS 2. Our system cannot handle creative naming such as SMUS Alpha and SMUS Beta ☹. Sorry!

Have your students bring a scientific non-programmable non-graphics calculator for use during the Co-op stage.

If on Thursday February 22, the day before the contest, you still have registration changes to make, please submit them directly to Nick Marsden, nmarsden@shaw.ca. Nick takes on registration responsibilities from this point onwards. The deadline for changes is 3:00 pm that day. Changes received after that could jeopardize your students' chances of being able to participate.

When you arrive on contest day:

- Refer to https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-11/iu_map.pdf for parking and building locations.
- Parking is \$3.25 (4 hours) or \$6.50 (all day).
- Head to the TEC (Technologies) Building. Please arrive by 12:30 at the very latest.
- Head to room TEC 181. This is our multi-purpose room. We use it for registration and then later for refreshment time. We're happy to share that room with you.
- For information on Wi-Fi access, look at <https://secure.camosun.bc.ca/guest-wireless/>.

Contest Schedule

12:30 Check in at the Welcome Desk in TEC 181
1:10 – 1:15 Students report to their classrooms
1:20 – 1:25 Opening remarks and instructions
1:30 – 2:10 Blitz (Stage One)
2:20 – 2:56 Bull's Eye (Stage Two)
3:06 – 3:42 Co-op (Stage Three)
3:43 – 3:58 Nutrition Break, TEC 181 - free pizza (2 pieces) and a soft drink. Some students may want to bring additional snacks.
4:05 – 4:35 Face-Off (Stage Four). Everyone welcome. No cameras or recording devices allowed.
4:45 – 5:30 Awards and Closing Remarks, Liz Ashton Campus Centre 124

(over)

Contest Details

Your students should be familiar with the answering rules outlined on the Math Challengers website and also given at http://trackshoes.ca/mc/answering_rules.pdf . For example, a question will be marked as wrong if it is not in the correct form:

- Wrong: answering 5.0 instead of 5 - *must be in simplest form.*
- Wrong: answering $1\frac{1}{4}$ or 1.25 instead of $\frac{5}{4}$ - *must use common fraction form.*

Blitz (Stage One)

During this 40-minute stage, individual competitors solve 26 problems. Calculators are not permitted. Parents and coaches may not attend.

Bull's Eye (Stage Two)

Individual students are given 12 minutes to solve each of 3 problem sets (36 minutes in total). Calculators are not permitted. Parents and coaches may not attend.

Co-op (Stage Three)

In this stage, teams (of up to five) will have 36 minutes to solve 15 higher-level, thinking problems. Non-programmable non-graphics calculators are permitted. Parents and coaches may not attend.

Face-Off (Stage Four)

The names of those who have reached the Face-Off Stage will be posted about 10 minutes before the contest begins. At this contest, students compete two at a time in an elimination format until there is only one person left. Calculators are not permitted. Parents and coaches are encouraged to attend. Everyone thoroughly enjoys the excitement of this event! No phones, cameras or recording devices of any kind (not even pen & paper ☺) please. *Provincial rules state that, for small pool sizes, fewer than 10 competitors are to be invited to the Face-Off. However, we will be inviting 10 people in all cases.*

Make sure your students are aware of the specific rules around answering Face-Off questions:

You have 45 seconds from the time the question appears on the screen. You will be given a "10 seconds" warning at the 35 second mark. To answer:

- You must be the first to press your button, and if you are, your light will go on.
- You then have 4 seconds to give your answer before the buzzer sounds and it's too late.
- Your answer must be in an acceptable format, just as in the earlier written tests.
- If your answer is incorrect, your opponent will have the time remaining (or a full 10 seconds if we are past the 35 second mark) to provide an answer. No buzzer is needed.

While students are engaged in the first three stages of Math Challengers, you may wish to spend some time around the College campus or nearby. The college cafeterias may or may not be open because it's "mid-term" break. However, we ask that you return to the competition site periodically in case we need you for anything.

Keeping things clean: would you please remind your students to clean up after themselves. In particular, to put throw-away things into the garbage or recycling after leaving their test rooms and especially after having their pizza and drink snacks.

If you have any questions, Leo Neufeld will be happy to take your call at 250-595-3486 or you can e-mail him at leoneufeld@shaw.ca.

We look forward to seeing you and your young Math students!