



ARBC Official Rulebook

Logistics and Competition Format

General Rules

The ARBC is designed to test students and their knowledge of biology. To ensure a fun and equitable experience for all, cheating is not allowed and any interpretation of the rules that would accommodate cheating is considered an academic honesty violation. Students/Teams who are found to be in violation of ARBC's rules and/or disruptive to the spirit or the orderly function of the competition will have their scores disqualified and be asked to leave the venue.

Team Composition

Teams will consist of 4 or fewer students from a single school/registering entity. All students must be in grades 8-12. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Schools can register at our website (biologycompetition.org). Any questions may be directed to arbcompetition.info@gmail.com. Teams can be changed up to the day of the competition, but once the event has started no team members may be substituted or changed.

Regions

Competitions will take place first regionally and in person. Individual regions may have their own policies so please refer to the discretion and rules released by your home region. Students can compete in both the online qualifier and their in-person region qualifier; however, in the event that they qualify for the national competition through both qualifiers, they must attend the national competition with their *in-person region* team. All teams are encouraged to compete in the region in which they reside. If no such region is applicable we ask that you send in an inquiry about founding a region to arbcompetition.info@gmail.com or try to travel to the nearest or most convenient ARBC regional for you! The top team(s) from regionals will be qualified to compete in our National Competition held in May. Regional competitions will be held from February to April.

Regional competitions will run the four main rounds of ARBC but may opt to run additional and optional rounds that will not count towards the overall ranking of teams unless explicitly stated by said region.

National Competition

A National Competition is currently tentatively planned to be held online in May. Please wait as more preparations are made!

Competition Mechanics

Each competition will be held locally at a venue selected by ARBC. Students are responsible for their own transport to and from the competition. Teams must be supervised by an adult at the competition.

Competitions will consist of four rounds (Individual, Team, Paper, Wave) with each round being weighted for team rankings. The Individual and Team rounds will follow the standard ARBC question distribution with all categories (Molecular, Cellular, and Chemical Biology [MCC], Genetics, Genomics, and Evolutionary Genetics [GGG], Human Anatomy, Physiology and Medical Biology [ANP], Systematics, Bioinformatics, and Integrative Biology [SBI], Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution [EEE]) being weighted equally. [FOR TEAMS OF 3 OR 4] the lowest score from the individual round will not be counted toward the overall team rankings.

Each round will be given a score out of 100 points based on the percentage of correct answers. For the individual round, the average of all scores (except the lowest score in teams of 3 or 4 which is dropped). The overall team score used for team rankings is calculated with the following weighting:

$$\text{Overall Score} = (0.20 \cdot \text{Indiv}) + (0.25 \cdot \text{Team}) + (0.30 \cdot \text{Paper}) + (0.25 \cdot \text{Wave})$$

At the end of each competition, the top scoring team(s) and individual(s) will be recognized and/or given prizes/awards.

Individual Round

Overview:

Format:	50 questions, single select multiple choice
Time Allotted:	60 minutes
Resources Allowed:	Non-graphing, non-programmable scientific calculator

Description:

Each competitor will take an exam independently of their teammates. This exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions with five answer choices per question. Each question will have one and only one correct answer. Conferring with teammates is not allowed and no resources besides a scientific calculator will be allowed.

Team Round

Overview:

Format:	6 passages/figures, 3-6 short answer questions per passage
Time Allotted:	30 minutes
Resources Allowed:	Non-graphing, non-programmable scientific calculator

Description:

Competitors will be able to confer with team members. This exam will consist of 5 questions that may be based on a passage or figure, each with 3-5 subquestions. The final 6th question will be an assortment of rapid-fire (one-word response) questions from a range of topics. Questions may request answers in the form of True/False with explanation, short responses, or otherwise, but will almost never exceed more than 2 sentences required for answering. Brevity in responses is strongly encouraged.

Paper Round

Overview:

Format: 2 short scientific papers/excerpts, 1-3 analysis questions per paper and 1-3 synthesis questions
Time Allotted: 50 Minutes
Resources Allowed: Any calculator. Any published resources. Any notes.

Description:

As a team competitors will be provided with two short scientific papers and will be able to access the internet as well as pre-prepared notes and instruments they choose to bring. Using the internet to communicate with others is strictly forbidden. All communication must be among team members and vocal or visual. Partial credit will be awarded for answers. Answers should be concise and questions with excessive superfluous writing will be penalized.

Wave Round

Overview:

Format: 15 questions, Multiple True False Questions
Time Allotted: 30 minutes
Resources Allowed: Non-graphing, non-programmable scientific calculator

Description:

As a team students are given an IBO theoretical style MTF question with 4-5 parts. Upon completion, students are to turn in that question and get the next one. Each question will use steep MTF grading (e.g. 1.0/0.6/0.2/0/0) and teams cannot see the next question until completing the one they are currently on.