

RULES OF PARTICIPATION WORLD GEOGRAPHY BOWL

December 1993, Revised February 1993, July 1994, December 1994,
May 1995, November 1996, **December 2000**
Sanctioned by the SEDAAG World Geography Bowl Committee

The purpose of the World Geography Bowl is to provide friendly, academic competition among college and university students based on fundamental factual and conceptual geographic knowledge.

The rules for all events associated with the World Geography Bowl (WGB) are sanctioned by the WGB Committee of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers. (A Glossary of Terms follows the Rules of Participation.)

Rule 1.

EVENTS

- 1.1. Sanctioned WGB events may be at the State, Regional, and National levels and must use the "Rules of Participation" found herein.
 - 1.1.a. A State WGB event may be organized by any state coordinator or committee recognized by a state geographical organization.
 - 1.1.b. A Regional WGB event may be organized by a coordinator or committee appointed or recognized by the appropriate regional division of the Association of American Geographers (AAG).
 - 1.1.c. A National WGB event may be organized by a coordinator or committee appointed or recognized by the AAG Council or its designated representative(s).
- 1.2. Sanctioned WGB events will be open to all individuals, institutions, or agencies, within the rules for Team Composition (Rule 2.)
- 1.3. Sanctioned WGB events are to be announced to all potential participants in advance.
 - 1.3.a. A nominal team participation fee may be charged to cover costs associated with the event.
- 1.4. All sanctioned WGB events must be managed by a designated WGB Committee (hereafter called the WGB Committee in Charge), or its designated representative, and must have one or more Moderators and a panel of Judges for each round.

- 1.4.a. The WGB Committee in Charge will make all decisions associated with when, where, and who will participate in an event, and will make all arrangements for funding of the event. This Committee is the policy-making body, which turns all decisions during the competition over to the Moderator(s) and Judges, whose decisions must fall within the Rules of Participation, as provided within this document.
- 1.4.b. The Moderator(s) will be in charge of the competition once the event begins, asking all questions and making decisions that will assure the fairness of the event. The Moderator(s) may rely on the panel of Judges to settle disputes, verify answers, and any other question that may arise during the competition. The Moderator(s) are given broad authority in running the competition, but he/she serves at the authority of the Judges; only the Judges may interrupt, correct, or challenge the Moderator's (s') authority.
- 1.5. Challenges by Participants during the event **must be made only by Team Captains and** may be handled by the Moderator(s), unless he/she chooses to involve the Judges or the Judges intervene. No challenges may be made by the audience.
- 1.6. **Trophies and awards may be presented to the participants of a WGB event, at the discretion of the Committee in Charge, except that any Most Valuable Player recognition can only go to a player who has competed in the majority of the rounds of an event.**

Rule 2

TEAM COORDINATORS

- 2.1. The role of Team Coordinator is to organize the team, serve as Coach when appropriate, and ensure good sportsmanship by the team.
- 2.1.a. The Team Coordinator will normally be a faculty member, designated by the agency(ies) in charge of the team. Under special circumstances, however, a Team may request that someone other than a faculty member serve as Team Coordinator, but the request must be made to the WGB Committee in Charge prior to the registration of the Team at the event.
- 2.1.b. The Team Coordinator should monitor his/her Team's conduct before, during, and after the event and be present at all rounds during the event.
- 2.2.c. The Team Coordinator(s) will be cooperative in carrying out any and all requests by the WGB Committee pertaining to the event.

Rule 3

TEAM COMPOSITION

- 3.1. A WGB team may include any number of students so long as the composition of that portion of the team participating in question rounds conforms to the event rules.
 - 3.1.a. The composition of that portion of each WGB team participating at the table in each question round must include at least one man, one woman, one graduate student and one undergraduate student. (One person may meet more than one of these team composition requirements.) For Regional and National events, the composition of the participating members at the table must also include students from two or more academic institutions within the geographical area being represented.
 - 3.1.b. Only full-time students at the time of the event may participate as members of a WGB team (i.e. minimum of a 6-hour load for graduate students and a 9-hour load for undergraduates).
 - 3.1.c. Students are eligible to participate in **collegiate** WGB events for no more than four (4) years total as undergraduates, graduate students or both.
- 3.2. At all levels of WGB competition, the best players rather than the best teams advance to the next level of event, so that "all stars" from the previous event make up each team.
 - 3.2.a. State WGB events are to include teams from as many colleges and universities as possible, so long as the compositions of the teams meet Rules 3.1.a. and 3.1.b. above.
 - 3.2.b. Regional and National WGB events are to include teams composed of the "all stars" from State or Regional WGB events. In the absence of an official State event, State teams may be assembled by whatever method is agreed to by the WGB Committee, but such teams must still meet the letter of Rules 3.1.a and 3.1.b. above.
 - 3.2.c. National WGB events are to include teams composed of "all stars" from Regional WGB events. Under certain circumstances special teams may be invited by the WGB Committee in Charge of the event to represent a region in the National event, the purpose of this invitation being to encourage a wider participation in the WGB by other regions. This invitation will normally be issued one time only for one event; in following years, the Region will be expected to designate its own team.
- 3.3. Requests to waive any part of the Team Composition rule must demonstrate "good faith" effort and must be made to the WGB Committee before registration is completed. Generally, the penalty for not meeting the team composition requirements (Rules 3.1.a. and 3.2.b) is for the team to play one member short for each composition requirement violation.

Rule 4.

PENALTIES

- 4.1. Team penalties may be levied by the WGB Committee in Charge, the Judges or the Moderator against a team for violations of any part of the Code of Conduct or the Rules of Participation by individual team members, an entire team, or by a Team Coordinator.
 - 4.1.a. Penalties before and after an event may only be levied by the WGB Committee in Charge.
 - 4.1.b. Penalties during the competition may be levied by the Moderator, with or without the recommendation of the Judges.
- 4.2. Normally, penalties assessed during events consist of initial warnings by the Moderator for minor infractions, followed by more severe penalties where the violation occurs a second time or is intentional or flagrant.
 - 4.2.a. Initial warnings for minor or unintentional infractions by a player may be carried out in whatever forum is involved, the intent being to change the behavior of the violator(s) with as little effect on the outcome of the event as possible.
 - 4.2.b. Second offenses or intentional or flagrant violations will result in a player being removed from the round of play without substitution.
 - 4.2.c. Third offenses will result in ejection of the player from the round and the remainder of the event without substitution.
- 4.3. Decisions regarding penalties made by the WGB Committee in Charge before and after an event and those made by the Moderator and Judges during the competition are final.
 - 4.3.a. Misrepresentation of the status of any member of a team will result in the forfeiture of all rounds and the event in which that team participated.
- 4.4. A spectator may be ejected from an event by the Moderator and/or Judges for violation of either the Code of Conduct or the Rules of Participation.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Buzzer System** The buzzer system (also called a "lock-out" system) is identical to those used on the game show, "Jeopardy, or for the "College Bowl"; during the toss-up questions, individuals who wish to answer the question may press a button in front of them to establish priority.
- Competition** This is the formal portion of the event where two participating teams sit opposite one another and questions are asked by the Moderator.
- Event** Any assembly of teams of students in order to compete under WGB Rules of Participation, beginning upon the arrival of the teams and ending with the award ceremony.
- Judge** One of the **two** or more) persons designated by the WGB Committee to be in charge of overseeing each round of WGB questions during the competition portion of an event. The Judge(s) have the ultimate authority during the competition, but do not normally become involved unless asked by the Moderator or some inequity occurs that is not apparent to the Moderator.
- Moderator** The person in charge of the competition portion of an event, and whose job it is to ask the questions during each round.
- Penalties** Penalties may be levied by the WGB Committee in Charge or by the Judges in accordance with the Rules of Participation.
- Round** A round of questions consists of a series of toss-up questions and team questions asked of two teams (**for example, ten or twelve toss-ups and two team questions**).
- Spectator** Any person in the audience during the competition portion of the event; spectators are very important to an event and they are active participants in that they may applaud and cheer for their teams. Spectators are not allowed to assist their teams in any other way, however, or to demonstrate poor sportsmanship toward opposing teams.
- Team** A team may consist of any number of students (but a maximum of **six (6)** is suggested). The number of team members allowed to participate during any round is to be announced prior to the event by the WGB Committee in Charge (generally, four to six).
- Team Captain** The team captain is selected by the team Coordinator for each round (but the captain may change from round to round); only the team captain (or his/her designate) may give the answer to team questions **or challenge a question or the proceedings**.
- Team Coordinator** The Coordinator is the team organizer, in charge of assembling the team, making sure the team participation fee is paid, and serving as team coach, if necessary. (S)he is responsible for team discipline and holds ultimate authority over the team.

Team Questions Team questions usually contain multiple answers and are asked of the entire team; team members may consult with one another during the answering process, but only the Team Captain (or his/her designate) may answer the question for the team

Toss-up Questions Toss-up questions are asked of the participants during the competition, but only individuals may answer and only after "buzzing in" to establish priority; no consulting between team members is allowed on toss-up questions.

WGB Committee At each level of event (State, Regional, or National), a WGB Committee in Charge may be established by the appropriate agency to operate the event. (See Rule 1.)