



YOUTH PROGRAMS

2019-2020

Gallaudet's

Battle of the Books

for Middle School Deaf and

Hard of Hearing Students

Rules and Guidelines Manual

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(changes or additions to the Rules and Guidelines manual for this year are highlighted)

1. Introduction

The Rules and Guidelines manual is written to govern Gallaudet University's Battle of the Books competition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Middle School students.

2. Description and Objectives

The Battle of the Books is a competition sponsored by Gallaudet University. There are three divisions in the competition. The divisions consist of students who read at the third/fourth grade levels (Green), fifth/sixth grade levels (Blue), and the seventh and above levels (Buff). The division names are as follows:

Buff - one of Gallaudet's primary colors.

Blue - one of Gallaudet's primary colors.

Green - named after Gallaudet's storied Kendall Green.

The Buff and Blue divisions will have three parts to their competition: a preliminary competition conducted through the use of videophone technology with schools in their assigned pool; a playoff competition conducted through the use of videophone technology with Gallaudet judges presiding; and finally a national competition at Gallaudet consisting of the top eight Buff teams and the top eight Blue teams.

The Green division will have two parts to their competition: a preliminary competition conducted through the use of videophone technology with schools in their assigned pool and a playoff competition conducted through the use of videophone technology with Gallaudet judges presiding. Only the first place team of the Green Playoffs will be invited to Gallaudet to attend the national competition (to watch, not participate).

The purpose of the Battle of the Books is to advocate for literacy amongst deaf and hard of hearing middle school students; to promote a spirit of academic competition and good sportsmanship; and to encourage the development of critical thinking skills.

3. Eligibility

3a. School and Program Eligibility

The Gallaudet's Battle of the Books competition is open to teams of middle school students currently enrolled in recognized schools or programs for deaf and hard of hearing students in the United States. Recognized schools or programs may include residential schools, day schools, mainstream programs, or any other type of educational program having middle-school-aged deaf or hard of hearing students. The Youth Programs office shall determine what constitutes "recognized schools or programs."

Where a single school or program does not have enough students to field its own Battle of the Books team, teams may be assembled by combining students from two or more schools or programs in reasonable proximity to each other. In some cases, as in a school in a rural area, the school may petition (in writing) for a larger radius to be given special consideration. Other

options are for a mainstreamed or home-schooled student to join the team of a local school or program for the deaf. All written petitions for special consideration will be reviewed by the Youth Programs office.

3b. Individual Eligibility

All Battle of the Books participants must be deaf or hard of hearing. The Youth Programs office reserves the right to request verification from a school official of a member's eligibility to play.

Battle of the Books participants must be in the fifth through eighth grades. Students in the fourth grade and below OR ninth grade and above are not eligible. Students who are taking both eighth grade and high school classes must be enrolled in the eighth grade for at least 50% of their classes.

A student's eligibility for the Battle of the Books is limited to a total of four years, starting in the fifth grade and ending in the eighth grade. We encourage larger schools to use students from the sixth through eighth grades; for smaller schools, an understandable need may arise to use fifth graders in order to be able to field a team.

Note: When a student has played in a specific division (i.e. Blue), the student is not allowed to play in a lower division the following year (i.e. Blue in 2013 to Green in 2014). Students are allowed (and encouraged) to move up to a higher division from year to year as their reading comprehension skills increase.

3c. Academic Eligibility and Player Eligibility

Each student on a Battle of the Books team must be in good academic standing--as defined by their school, program, or school district--as of the date of the preliminary competition and again as of the date of the national competition. In particular, Battle of the Books participants must not be on academic probation, academic suspension, or the equivalent from the end of the previous grading period until the dates of the preliminary and national competitions. The Youth Programs office reserves the right to request verification from a school official that a member is/was eligible to play. If no eligibility requirements exist for extracurricular activities, such as clubs, the school should look to its requirements for athletic eligibility.

The **Buff** division is only for students who read at the seventh grade or above. Fifth grade students may participate as long as they are reading at the seventh grade or above.

The **Blue** division is for students who read at the fifth and sixth grade levels.

The **Green** division is for students who read at the third and fourth grade levels.

To determine the appropriate reading division for your students, the following list includes examples of assessment tools that schools may choose to use: SAT test score (which shows

reading comprehension level), NWEA (MAP) test results, Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), state standardized test results, etc.

For the Blue division only, the Youth Programs office will send a Google Form for chaperones to fill out with each participant's reading assessment scores in order to ensure that the players on the Blue team are appropriately placed. More information will be shared with Blue division chaperones following registration.

Schools also have full discretion in deciding appropriate consequences for behavior-related issues for their players. The Youth Programs office has no control over what a school decides in relation to behavior-related issues that occur at the school. Chaperones are to communicate with the Youth Programs office if a player is removed from a team after the chaperone has submitted the team's registration.

4. Registration and Number of Players

Every fall, the Youth Programs office will provide information about registration to schools and programs across the nation. Currently, registration is completed online through the Battle of the Books website. **For the 2019-2020 competition, the first day of the registration period will be on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.**

All participating schools for the **Green** division will be expected to pay a \$100 registration fee to help offset Battle of the Books operating costs.

All participating schools for the **Buff** and **Blue** divisions will be expected to pay a \$250 registration fee. The higher fee for the **Buff and Blue** divisions helps offset the travel, lodging, meal expenses for a larger number of teams coming to the National competition from this division, and other operating costs. If a school fields a team for both the **Buff** and **Blue** divisions, the school will need to pay \$250 per team.

Please note: The last day to register a team is Friday, September 13, 2019.

There will be no maximum number of teams for any of the three divisions. Schools can register up to three teams (one per reading division). All registered schools are welcome to participate in the competition.

The Youth Programs office will send each registered team an email acknowledging their registration. Any follow-up correspondence will be sent by email.

If any previously registered team finds it must withdraw after November 1, 2019, the registration fee will not be refunded. If a team withdraws before November 1, 2019, the registration fee can either be refunded or be applied to the registration fee for the next competition taking place during the 2020-2021 school year.

There is no maximum number of players for each team, but the suggested maximum is nine players (in order to play 3 students in each of the three Preliminary matches). The minimum number of players for each team is three players. For schools that have more than three players, the school decides at its own discretion how to use those players in Preliminary matches. Schools may decide not to use all of their available players if they feel some players have not shown enough commitment to reading the books. If the school advances to the Playoffs, the school must decide which three players they will use in the Playoff match. Those three players will become the same players that the school brings to the National competition, along with one alternative (in case a player needs to be replaced at the last minute, an alternative player can practice with the team until the National competition). If a situation arises in which a team loses one of its players immediately before the National competition and an alternate player cannot be found, that team will be permitted to attend Nationals with two players, but will automatically become ineligible for team awards, individual players will remain eligible for individual awards.

Teams must submit final rosters of all students and chaperones online on or before **Friday, November 1, 2019**. Any roster changes after that date must be approved by the Youth Programs office.

5. Designated Chaperone

Each team must have at least one chaperone. If a team advances to the national competition, Gallaudet will allow a second chaperone (they will need to register due to liability reasons) to accompany the team at the school's expense (air/ground transportation, meals, and lodging). The school or program must designate one chaperone as the primary contact person for each division.

During the national competition, the primary designated chaperone will be required to stay with his/her team 24/7 from the moment the team arrives on Gallaudet's campus on arrival day until the moment the team departs Gallaudet's campus on departure day. The primary designated chaperone will not be allowed to leave campus for any reason during the competition period.

6. Chaperone Guidelines

In contrast to the Academic Bowl, Battle of the Books chaperones are not allowed to develop practice questions or facilitate discussion about the assigned books for the competition. Chaperones are also not allowed to mandate any assignments for daily or weekly practice (i.e., requiring readers to develop questions, requiring group discussion, etc.), such strategies may be recommended but not mandated. Students will be expected to facilitate their own discussion about the assigned books and develop their own study materials. Chaperones will be required to sign a participation contract online.

A list of what Chaperones CAN do:

- 1) Help students prepare for the competition by explaining the rules and the competition format. A video by the Youth Programs office will be sent to registered teams explaining the rules and guidelines.
- 2) Communicate with Gallaudet's Youth Programs office to ensure registration, payment of registration fees, and so forth.
- 3) Set up a mock competition or a tryouts competition in which students read non-BOTB books and participate in a tryouts test of sorts in which similar rules or a similar competition format is used.
- 4) Give definitions for vocabulary words that students struggle with from their assigned books.
- 5) Encourage students to set up a timeline and/or develop questions for the books (cannot mandate it).
- 6) Help my team prepare for the Playoff and National competitions by showing the Final Round video created by the Youth Programs Office.
- 7) Help players practice for the Final Round presentation by holding a mock competition using questions from a non-BOTB book.
- 8) Provide copies of the BOTB Study Guide packet sent by the Youth Programs office.
- 9) Provide space and help team schedule practice sessions (cannot be mandated).
- 10) Work on logistics for the Preliminary matches by working with other schools to ensure a working VP connection for match days.

A list of what chaperones CAN'T do:

- 1) Answer any questions a student might have about a book except when students request a definition of a word.
- 2) Help develop practice questions relating to the assigned books.
- 3) Mandate the development of possible questions by the team (this MUST be done on their own by their own accord).
- 4) Develop a timeline for students to read the books (i.e. mandating that students read Chapters 1 through 10 of a book by a given date).
- 5) Facilitate discussion of the books.
- 6) Find websites or other materials relating to the book and share them with the team.

If it is discovered that a chaperone has violated one of the above guidelines, the team will be disqualified from the current competition and may be suspended for the following year. Parents and other school officials are also asked to maintain the integrity of the competition by adhering to the same guidelines given to the chaperones.

During the Preliminary, Playoff, and the National competitions, chaperones may advise, support, and counsel their teams, but they cannot talk about the content of the books.

During the National competition, chaperones must watch their teams from their assigned seating, incommunicado. They may advise, support, and counsel their teams during the breaks in between rounds. Chaperones are not to take notes at all during the National competition.

7. National Competition Teams

The top eight teams from the **Buff** division and the top eight teams from the **Blue** division will get an all-expenses-paid trip to Gallaudet University for the national competition. The first-place winner of the Green division competition (as determined by the Playoffs) will also get an all-expenses-paid trip to Gallaudet for the national competition. Gallaudet will fund travel for three players and one chaperone from each qualifying school or program. This includes lodging, transportation during the competition, and all meals during the designated competition period (from dinner on Saturday to breakfast on Tuesday). Any meals while in transit and before or after the competition period are the team's responsibility. Gallaudet will also cover transportation to/from the schools and Washington, D.C. for the teams participating in the national competition. Any additional people accompanying the team must travel and be accommodated at the school's expense. These additional people may not take any official role during the competition, including sitting with the team, wearing team apparel, or participating in team discussions during breaks between rounds (this includes the second chaperone if there is one).

The Battle of the Books has a policy on additional adults or students, which is reproduced here: Schools may bring a maximum of two chaperones (one at the school's expense) and three players to the national competition. We cannot accommodate other adults or students. If additional students attend the national competition for any reason, they must be accompanied by another chaperone or chaperones from their school. The team's chaperone may not serve as chaperones for additional students. The school is solely responsible for making travel, lodging, and meal arrangements for their additional students and additional chaperones (other than the second chaperone who will be able to ride with the team to/from Gallaudet).

Students not on the team cannot participate in meals, social events, or other activities specifically designated for the teams. They also cannot sit with the team during the competition or wear the same team apparel at any time, in or out of the competition venue. Gallaudet University assumes no liability for anyone except the designated chaperones and players for each team.

8. Player Illness

Barring sudden illness or other emergencies, all players are expected to remain in the competition room for the entire match. Emergency bathroom breaks are excepted.

If a player on a Playoff team with only three registered players cannot make it due to illness during a match, we will give that team a 1-point default for that player's answer during the Final Round. If there are two or more players on a Playoffs team unable to show up for the match and rescheduling is not a possible option, the team automatically forfeits the match.

9. Accessibility Accommodations

For the Preliminary portion of the competition, if any accommodations are needed for players, it will be the responsibility of the participating school to provide those accommodations.

Interpreters – Students may request interpreters to help during introductions and objections, Final Round presentation answers, and other special circumstances. Because the competition questions are presented in both ASL and written English, interpreters cannot be used during the actual showing of questions and answers, or to facilitate discussion among teammates.

Vision and Perception - A player may request accommodations for a visual or perceptual impairment: for example, the need for a font style, size, or color change, a background color or intensity change, a close-vision monitor, and so on. An interpreter may also sit next to the student to help facilitate communication if needed.

Other Additional Disabilities - A player may request accommodations for any other additional disability: for example, a player who uses a wheelchair may need to play all matches in a convenient location.

For the National competition, all situations requiring special accommodations should be brought to the attention of the Associate Director of Youth Programs and Outreach by **February 21, 2020**. If a school requests accommodations after the deadline, the accommodations may not be provided.

10. Match Format

10a. Rounds and Number of Questions

Preliminary Match Format

Each match shall consist of two rounds, designated Round One and Round Two. The two rounds are played consecutively, with a two-minute break in between.

Round 1 will consist of 12 Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions for which team members will be allowed to discuss amongst each other before submitting the answers.

Round 2 will consist of 12 Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions for which team members will be allowed to discuss amongst each other before submitting the answers.

Playoffs Match Format

Each match shall consist of three rounds, designated Round One, Round Two, and the Final Round. All three rounds are played consecutively, with two-minute breaks in between.

Round 1 will consist of 12 Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions for which team members will be allowed to discuss amongst each other before submitting the answers.

Round 2 will consist of 12 Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions for which individual team members will take turns answering. They will not be allowed to discuss amongst each other before submitting the answers.

The Final Round will consist of **three** Presentation-Style questions for which team members will take turns giving answers. Each of the three players will answer one question with no help from their teammates. All three questions will be shown before the Final Round begins so that each team can decide who will answer each of the three questions.

Nationals Match Format

Each match shall consist of three rounds, designated Round One, Round Two, and the Final Round. All three rounds are played consecutively, with two-minute breaks in between.

Round 1 will consist of 8 Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions for which team members will be allowed to discuss amongst each other before submitting the answers.

Round 2 will consist of 8 Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions for which individual team members will take turns answering. They will not be allowed to discuss amongst each other before submitting the answers.

The Final Round will consist of **three** Presentation-Style questions for which team members will take turns giving answers. Each of the three players must answer one question with no help from their teammates. There will be three questions shown right before the Final Round begins so that teammates can assign themselves one of the three questions. After the questions are shown for the first time, each team will get a printout of the three questions and they will be given some time to choose which question they want to answer.

10b. Question Categories and Scoring

Rounds One and Two

Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions will be used for these rounds. For the Preliminary and Playoff matches, questions will be drawn from all three of the assigned Preliminary books in no particular number or order. For the national competition, questions will be drawn from all four of the assigned Nationals books.

Each correct answer in Rounds One and Two is worth 2 points. The maximum number of points that can be earned in each of the first two rounds of the Preliminary and Playoff competitions is 24. The maximum number of points that can be earned in each of the first two rounds of the National competition is 16.

An example of a Multiple Choice question is:

Question: What is the name of Holden's sister in *The Catcher in the Rye*?

- A) Phoebe
- B) Rachel
- C) Priscilla
- D) Chloe

Answer: A or Phoebe

An example of a Short Answer question is:

Question: With what weapon was Rue killed in *The Hunger Games*?

Answer: A spear

***For Short Answer in Round One and Two questions, the schools' chaperones during the Preliminary competition will determine whether the written short answers are accepted or not. Disputed answers will be sent to Gallaudet's head judge. During the Playoffs and Nationals matches, the Gallaudet judges will determine whether the written short answers are accepted or not.**

An example of a True or False question is:

True or False: Harry Potter received his Hogwarts letter the day he turned ten years old.

Answer: False (Harry received his Hogwarts letter the day he turned eleven years old).

***For True or False answers in Round One and Two, any "false" answer will be accompanied by an explanation on the answer slide. The explanation is not a required part of the answer, but provided for the benefit of the players and audience members.**

Final Round (for Playoff and National matches only)

Presentation-Style questions will be used for this round. Questions will be drawn from all three of the assigned books (four books for the national competition teams). Right before the Final Round starts, teams will be shown the questions then they will need to assign a player to each of the three questions. For an example, see below:

- 1) *The Hunger Games*- Why do you think Katniss volunteered in Prim's place at the Reaping? (James)
- 2) *Harry Potter*- Why do you think Dobby decided to warn Harry about the terrible things that would happen at Hogwarts? (Rosalie)
- 3) *The Catcher in the Rye*- Why do you think Holden called the people who surround him phonies? (Estella)

Players will be asked a question, then given up to two minutes to write notes and answer the question presentation-style. The judges will score the answers on a scale of 0 to 5 points. The maximum number of points that can be earned in this round is 15 points (20 for national championship matches).

For the Green division, presentation-style questions will still be used, but the questions will be simpler questions such as:

- 1) *Frog and Toad Are Friends*- What was your favorite chapter in the book and why?
- 2) *Dexter the Tough*- In the beginning of the book, why is Dexter always hurting other kids?

11. Competition Formats

11a. Preliminary Competition Format

During the Preliminary portion of the competition, the Youth Programs office will schedule the matches each team will play. Teams will play three matches against selected teams and no wins/losses will be recorded. Instead, each team's point totals will be recorded in order to determine which teams will advance to the Playoffs.

The Buff division will play all of its round robin Preliminary matches on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Participating teams will be expected to excuse their players from school on this day in order to be able to play in all three matches. Parents and school community members are welcome to watch the matches.

The Blue division will play all of its round robin Preliminary matches on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. Participating teams will be expected to excuse their players from school on this day in order to be able to play in all three matches. Parents and school community members are welcome to watch the matches.

The Green division will play all of its round robin Preliminary matches on Thursday, November 21, 2019. Participating teams will be expected to excuse their players from school on this day in order to be able to play in all three matches. Parents and school community members are welcome to watch the matches.

Each school MUST have PowerPoint 2016 or newer (PC) or PowerPoint 2016 or newer (Mac) in order to show the Match PowerPoints. Each school must also have videophone capabilities in order to participate. Sorenson is the suggested VP device as a majority of schools use Sorenson nTouch VP. Other devices may also be acceptable after consulting with the Youth Programs office. A room at the school or program must be designated as the competition room for the assigned day and times for the participating team. If an interpreter is needed, the participating school will provide one.

Fans and school officials are welcome to watch the matches, but they must in no way interfere with the match, including discussion of the questions and answers. The entire team must be visible when on videophone with the other schools/Gallaudet judges. **Players should be seated at a table with a school banner that is taped on the front of the table or on a backdrop in a visible manner.**

Team shirts are encouraged for each participating school during the Preliminary and Playoff competitions. Schools are responsible for the cost of the team apparel.

Google Drive links will be used to send the files that each school will need in order to participate in the Preliminary matches. A practice match will also be shared in advance of the competition for schools to test their equipment with. Each school's chaperone will be sent links to all three Preliminary matches approximately a few days before the Preliminary competition begins. The school cannot open the file until one hour before the match begins via videophone with the other school. The school will need to set up a laptop or a laptop-projector connection to show the match to the team. The chaperone will then work with the other chaperone during each of the round robin matches to go through the match together with teams playing each question at the same time. Both chaperones will judge both teams' answers with disputed answers being sent to Gallaudet's head judge.

All questions in the Match PowerPoints will be signed in ASL using video clips with the English translation appearing on screen as well.

Preliminary Rounds One and Two

Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions will be shown on the screen in both ASL and written English. After the signer has stopped signing the question, Buff teams will be given 20 seconds to discuss and submit an answer, Blue teams will be given 25 seconds to discuss and submit an answer, and Green teams will be given 30 seconds to discuss and submit an answer. All answers are to be written on a white board and shown to the chaperones. A timer will be on the PowerPoint and the answer must be submitted by the team before time expires. If a player has written an answer and has taken his/her pen off the whiteboard before time has expired, the answer can be submitted. If a team is still arguing over which answer to submit and time has expired, the team will not be given a chance to submit an answer. The chaperones will determine whether the answer is acceptable or not. If there is a dispute, the chaperone of the team with the disputed answer will take a picture of the answer and send it to the Head Judge at Gallaudet. A decision on the disputed answer(s) will then be given to both chaperones after a review.

Preliminary Competition Format

At the end of each Preliminary match, the chaperones will then confirm their teams' total points with each other. Once all participating teams have completed their Round Robin matches, the top 12 teams for the Buff division, the top 16 teams for the Blue division, and the top six teams for the Green division will be announced via email (the number of teams may

change depending on the number of teams that register for each Division), the Battle of the Books website, and on the Gallaudet University Youth Programs Facebook page.

11b. Playoffs Competition Format

The top 12 teams from the Buff division will have one match in front of the Gallaudet judges via videophone. The top eight scoring teams from the Buff Playoffs will then be invited to the national competition at Gallaudet. The top 16 teams from the Blue division will have one match in front of the Gallaudet judges via videophone. The top eight scoring teams from the Blue Playoffs will then be invited to the national competition at Gallaudet. The top six teams from the Green division will have one match in front of the Gallaudet judges via videophone. The winner of the Green Playoffs will be invited to watch the national competition at Gallaudet. Again, we reserve the right to change the number of teams eligible for the playoffs in each division based on the number of teams that register.

Playoffs Round One and Two

Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and True or False questions will be shown on the screen in both ASL and written English. Teams will be given time to answer the question (20 seconds for Buff, 25 seconds for Blue, 30 seconds for Green) and the timer will start after the signer has stopped signing the question. All answers are to be written on a white board and shown to the Gallaudet judges. An answer must be submitted by the team before time expires. If a player has written an answer and has taken his/her pen off the whiteboard before time has expired, the answer can be submitted. If a team is still arguing over which answer to submit and time has expired, the team will not be given a chance to submit an answer. Gallaudet's judges will determine whether the answer is acceptable or not.

Round One will continue to be a team discussion round while Round Two will be an individual round in which players take turns answering the questions.

Playoffs Final Round

Presentation-Style questions will be shown on the screen in both ASL and written English. Each player will be given up to two minutes to give a presentation-style answer to the judges. The judges will then award points on a 0-5 scale for each answer.

Playoffs Confidentiality Agreement

All participating Playoff teams and spectators are expected to sign a confidentiality agreement in order to protect the integrity of the Playoff competition. Chaperones are responsible for ensuring that each individual present in the competition room reads and understands the terms of the confidentiality agreement prior to signing. Players, chaperones, school officials, and fans who are in the room during the Playoff match are not to share any information about the questions and answers with anyone who was not present during the match, nor are they to share their score in any manner, including on social media, until after their respective playoff period is complete. Sharing scores outside of competition room will be

considered a violation of the confidentiality agreement. Any violation of the confidentiality agreement will be grounds for immediate disqualification from the competition.

11c. National Competition Format

During the National competition, the eight Buff and Blue teams will be split into two pools of four teams. The eight Buff and Blue teams will be seeded based on their total points from the Playoffs match. One pool will have the #1, #4, #5, and #8 seeded teams. The other pool will have the #2, #3, #6, and #7 seeded teams. They will play round robin matches against the other teams in their respective pools. The setup will be similar to the Preliminary competition except with two teams in the same room.

On the first day of the National competition, we will have the two Buff pools (Marbury and Tiegel) play round robin matches against the other teams in their pool. We will record win and loss results during the round robin matches. The teams' records will determine their seeding for the next day's Playoff bracket. For the Quarterfinals round, the #1 team from Marbury Pool will play the #4 team from Tiegel Pool, the #2 team from Marbury Pool will play the #3 team from Tiegel Pool, the #3 team from the Marbury Pool will play the #2 team from Tiegel Pool, and the #4 team from Marbury Pool will play the #1 team from Tiegel Pool.

The same format will be used for the Blue pools (Smith and Bove). For the Quarterfinals round, the #1 team from Smith Pool will play the #4 team from Bove Pool, the #2 team from Smith Pool will play the #3 team from Bove Pool, the #3 team from Smith Pool will play the #2 team from Bove Pool, and the #4 team from Smith Pool will play the #1 team from Bove Pool.

The winners of the Quarterfinals round will advance to the Semifinals round. The winners of the Semifinals round will advance to the Championship match. The Third Place and Fourth Place teams will be determined by the points earned by the losing teams in the Semifinals matches.

The procedures for Round One and Two of the National competition matches will be exactly the same as the Playoffs portion of the competition.

During the Final Round, one player from each team will take turns answering presentation-style. While one player is giving his/her answer, the player from the other team will not be present so that no player gains an unfair advantage by watching someone else answer the same question. All other aspects of the Final Round from the Playoffs portion will remain the same.

12. Rules During Matches

Rounds One and Two

1. All answers must be written on a dry erase board and shown to the chaperones/judges.
2. Answers that are communicated to the judges in a way other than writing will not be accepted.
3. Once the dry erase board has been given to the proctor and has left the player's or a team's hands, the answer is considered final and may not be taken back for corrections or additions by any player at any time.
4. Changes, strikeouts, and corrections must be clear. If changes make the answer ambiguous or illegible, the judges will rule it incorrect. If there is any writing on the dry erase board that is not relevant to the answer, it must be marked out so the judges do not have to guess at which answer is intended. Players are encouraged to circle the correct written answer so the judges can clearly distinguish the final answer.
5. While this is not a handwriting competition, answers must be written legibly. Legibility is at the discretion of the judges, objections on handwriting will not be considered.
6. Answers that are not proper nouns need not be capitalized and will be accepted with or without capitals. All proper nouns must be correctly capitalized (i.e. Holden Caulfield, London, etc.) For proper nouns, full names are not required. However, if you include the full name, spelling must be correct for both the first AND last name. If more than one character in the book (i.e., Ron or Fred Weasley) shares the same last name, the first name will be a required part of the answer.
7. All character names MUST be spelled correctly and capitalized.
8. For Green and Blue division players, spelling should be as accurate as possible for all non-proper noun answers. Buff division players must spell all key parts of the answer correctly.

Final Round

1. When a player is giving his/her presentation-style answer, the other players on the team may not communicate in any way with the player giving the answer.
2. If a player uses spoken English to voice an objection or give his Final Round answer, an ASL interpreter on the player's team's side will be used to ensure that the Gallaudet judges can understand the player. Interpreters will be instructed to interpret the answer word for word and include any vocal representations of uncertainty or "stalling" (i.e., "umm").

13. Competition Standings

13a. Preliminary Competition Standings

The 12 teams in the Buff division with the highest point totals after the completion of their round robin matches will be invited to the Playoffs. There will be no wins and losses in the competition. If there is a tie for the 12th spot between two teams (or more) in the Buff division, the schools will then set up a time with the Gallaudet judges to answer Short Answer tiebreaker questions.

The 16 teams in the Blue division with the highest point totals after the completion of their round robin matches will be invited to the Playoffs. There will be no wins and losses in the competition. If there is a tie for the 16th spot between two teams (or more) in the Blue division,

the schools will then set up a time with the Gallaudet judges to answer Short Answer tiebreaker questions.

The 6 teams in the Green division with the highest point totals after the completion of their round robin matches will be invited to the Playoffs. There will be no wins and losses in the competition. If there is a tie for the 6th spot between two teams (or more) in the Green division, the schools will then set up a time with the Gallaudet judges to answer Short Answer tiebreaker questions.

13b. Playoffs Competition Standings

The 12 teams in the Buff Playoffs will have one match in front of the Gallaudet judges. The eight teams with the highest point totals after the completion of all Playoff matches will then be invited to the national competition. If there is a tie for the 8th spot between two teams (or more) in the Buff division, we will look at the total number of points earned in the Final Round by each of the tied teams. If this does not break the tie, the schools will set up a time with the Gallaudet judges to answer three more Presentation-style tiebreaker questions.

The 16 teams in the Blue Playoffs will have one match in front of the Gallaudet judges. The eight teams with the highest point totals after the completion of all Playoff matches will then be invited to the national competition. If there is a tie for the 8th spot between two teams (or more) in the Buff division, we will look at the total number of points earned in the Final Round by each of the tied teams. If this does not break the tie, the schools will set up a time with the Gallaudet judges to answer three more Presentation-style tiebreaker questions.

The six teams in the Green Playoffs will have one match in front of the Gallaudet judges. The team with the highest point totals after the completion of all Playoff matches will then be invited to the national competition. If there is a tie for the 1st place spot between two teams (or more) in the Green division, we will look at the total number of points earned in the Final Round by each of the tied teams. If this does not break the tie, the schools will set up a time with the Gallaudet judges to answer three more Presentation-style tiebreaker questions.

13c. National Competition standings

The eight teams in the Buff and Blue divisions will be split into two pools of four teams each. The Buff and Blue teams will play round robin matches against teams in the same pool. The teams will then be seeded for the tournament bracket the following day based on the points they earned on day one. If two teams (or more) have the same points total after the completion of round robin matches, we will look at the total number of points earned in the Final Rounds of all three matches as a tiebreaker. If this does not break the tie, the two schools will be called into a competition room then be given Short Answer questions until the tie is broken. If there is a tie at the completion of a tournament match, the teams will be given Short Answer questions until the tie is broken.

14. Timeouts and Objections

There are no timeouts during the Battle of the Books matches.

Objections can be made at any time if a player disagrees with a judge's decision during Rounds One or Two. When a player wants to make an objection, he/she simply needs to stand up and indicate that he/she wants to make an objection. The player will then explain his/her rationale for the objection and the judge will then respond with a decision after consulting with the head judge. All answer slides will have the book title and the page number(s) used for obtaining the answer.

A player may not object on handwriting or legibility. Objections cannot be made during the Final Round. Chaperones cannot object at all during any point of the matches.

15. Audience Interference

During the National Gallaudet's Battle of the Books competition, our staff will take appropriate steps to ensure that audience members do not communicate in any way during a match. Gallaudet's Battle of the Books volunteers will ask anyone in the audience caught signing or otherwise communicating to a player during a match to leave the room.

Although all players are deaf or hard of hearing, many do have residual hearing with or without amplification, and can be distracted by audience noise as well as "visual noise" in the form of excessive physical motions in the audience. Thusly, only minimal applause is allowed during the match. Moderators will remind the audience at the beginning of each match of the need for proper behavior. People who are being distracting or disruptive will be asked to cease the offending behavior. If they continue, they will be asked to leave the room.

At the judges' discretion, backup questions may be used to replace any questions thrown into doubt by audience interference.

Only chaperones are allowed to talk to their team during the matches—either during breaks or at the beginning and end of each match. If an audience member, chaperone, parent, or another member from that team's school gives advice or tries to talk the team during the match, that person will be asked to leave the competition room.

In cases of extreme disruption by an audience member (i.e. parents, school administrators, or other students), that person will be asked to leave the room immediately by the judges and/or the Director of Youth Programs. If the disruptive behavior continues or occurs again with the same person, that person may not be permitted to enter any of the competition rooms for the rest of the competition weekend.

16. Sportsmanship and Conduct

Appropriate sportsmanship and professional behavior is expected from all players, teams, and chaperones at all times throughout all phases of the competition. During each division's

Playoff period, sharing a team's final score in any manner is considered a violation of the confidentiality agreement and will lead to disqualification from the competition.

Chaperones and their schools are responsible for the behavior of their teams and individual members. Gallaudet University will not be responsible for any damage, injuries, vandalism, or other liabilities caused by participants. All players and chaperones are expected to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with law. Underage drinking, use of illegal drugs or any other type of illegal activity will not be tolerated. A list of infractions and consequences is detailed in the Participation Contract form that each player and his or her parents or guardian reads and signs before the national competition.

The Battle of the Books Executive Committee reserves the right to determine appropriate consequences for any violations committed by a member of a team.

17. Communication Devices

Communication devices may not be used in competition rooms at any time by players, chaperones, or audience members. This includes beepers, pagers, smart phones, laptop computers, iPads, or any other device that may jeopardize the fairness and integrity of the Gallaudet's Battle of the Books competition.

18. Photography and Video Cameras

During the Preliminary and Playoff competitions, still and video photography is allowed at the respective school sites. **No photos or videos that include question or answer slides of the competition PowerPoint may be posted to social media sites by any person until the day after the competition is completed.**

No still or video photography is allowed during the National competition. Photographs or videos may be taken during breaks between rounds and before or after the competition. The only exception to this rule will be when the Gallaudet University photographer or videographer needs to photograph or record some aspect of the competition.

19. Certificates and Awards

For all Preliminary competition participants, each will receive a certificate and a t-shirt.

For the **Buff and Blue** divisions, the awards are as follows:

A Sportsmanship Award will be awarded to one of the eight teams that attend the National competition. All players and the chaperone of the winning team will receive an individual medallion as well as a plaque for the school to display.

There will be one player selected from each of the top eight schools to the All-Star team and each player will receive individual medallions. An additional player will be selected as the Most Outstanding Player and receive a trophy. The Most Outstanding Player is a student who not

only demonstrates excellent knowledge, but also exhibits leadership, team spirit, and a positive attitude toward all. The Battle of the Books Executive Committee will select the winner of this award.

The winning school of the Gallaudet's Battle of the Books competition will receive a plaque for the school for permanent display, and individual trophies for the chaperone and players.

The 2nd place team will receive a plaque for the school for permanent display and individual trophies for the chaperone and players. The 3rd and 4th place teams will receive a plaque for display at the schools.

For the **Green** division, the awards are as follows:

A Championship plaque and individual trophies will be presented to the championship team from the Green Playoffs.

One player will be selected as the Most Outstanding Player. The Most Outstanding Player is a student who not only demonstrates excellent knowledge, but also exhibits leadership, team spirit, and a positive attitude toward all. The Battle of the Books Executive Committee will select the winner of this award.

20. Books and Questions

All books used during the competition are selected by the Battle of the Books Executive Committee. Questions are also developed by the Battle of the Books committee. Every effort will be made to select books that reflect the diversity of the United States and the world. The books selected will be mainly, but not always, contemporary in order to prevent students from using movie adaptations of books to gain an unfair advantage. Participating schools are also expected to **disallow** the use of the books selected as a part of the school curriculum for the same time period.

Schools are responsible for the purchase of the books used for the preliminary competition. Schools can order books for the competition in advance once the books are announced in May 2018. Specific ISBN numbers will be provided for each book because for some books, several editions may exist. Books will be provided by the Youth Programs office for all players that advance to the national competition. **National competition books provided by Gallaudet University are for players to keep and must not be reallocated to other students or school resources.**

21. Copyright of Questions

All of the questions used in the Battle of the Books competitions are copyrighted and are the sole property of Gallaudet University. No other use of these questions is permitted. Anyone who copies questions in any manner will be asked to leave the competition.

22. Infractions and Consequences

Infractions and Consequences are detailed in the Participation Contract, and are considered part of these Rules and Guidelines. The Participation Contracts will be online and each member of each registered team will be asked to insert their electronic signatures on the online registration forms.

Note: These Rules and Guidelines are subject to change by the Battle of the Books committee as necessary to maintain a fair and enjoyable competition. Mid-season changes will be kept to an absolute minimum.

23. Timeline of the 2019-2020 Competition

Registration period: Wednesday, September 11 @ 12:00pm EDT to Friday, September 13, 2019 @ 12:00pm EDT

Distribute books to players: Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Team Registration form due and Registration fee(s) due: Friday, November 1, 2019

Sample match sent to chaperones: early November 2019

Buff Preliminary competition: Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Buff Playoff teams announced: Weds., November 20, 2019

Blue Preliminary competition: Weds., November 20, 2019

Blue Playoff teams announced: Thurs., November 21, 2019

Green Preliminary competition: Thurs., November 21, 2019

Green Playoff teams announced: Fri., November 22, 2019

Buff Playoffs: Wednesday, Dec. 4 to Friday, Dec. 6, 2019

Blue Playoffs: Monday, Dec. 9 to Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019

Green Playoffs: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019

Announce Nationals teams: Friday, December 13, 2019

Announce books for National competition (and ship to schools): Friday, December 13, 2019

Distribute Nationals books to players: Thursday, December 19, 2019

National competition @ Gallaudet: Friday, April 3 to Monday, April 6, 2020

The National competition will be held during the weekend of April 3-April 6, 2020. Arrival day will be on Friday, April 3, 2020 for all teams. The competition will be held on Saturday, April 4 and Sunday, April 5. The championship matches will be shown live via webcast on Sunday, April 5. Departure day is Monday, April 6.

Note: Players that receive books for the National competition are expected to keep the books for personal use after the competition. The books for the National competition are purchased by the Youth Programs office and become the property of the players after receiving them.

National Championship Teams

2019

**Buff: Kendall Demonstration Elementary School
Washington, DC**

**Blue: Venado Middle School
Irvine, CA**

**Green: Venado Middle School
Irvine, CA**

2018

**Buff: Texas School for the Deaf
Austin, TX**

**Blue: Kendall Demonstration Elementary School
Washington, DC**

**Green: Wisconsin School for the Deaf
Delavan, WI**

2017

**Buff: California School for the Deaf
Fremont, CA**

**Blue: New Mexico School for the Deaf
Santa Fe, NM**

**Green: Maryland School for the Deaf
Frederick, MD**

2016

**Buff: Phoenix Day School for the Deaf
Phoenix, AZ**

**Blue: California School for the Deaf
Fremont, CA**

**Green: Rhode Island School for the Deaf
Providence, RI**

2015

**Buff: Phoenix Day School for the Deaf
Phoenix, AZ**

**Blue: Wisconsin School for the Deaf
Delavan, WI**

**Green: California School for the Deaf
Fremont, CA**

2014

**Buff: Kendall Demonstration Elementary School
Washington, DC**

**Blue: Kentucky School for the Deaf
Danville, KY**

**Green: Louisiana School for the Deaf
Baton Rouge, LA**

**&
Illinois School for the Deaf
Jacksonville, IL**

2012-2013

**Buff: Texas School for the Deaf
Austin, TX**

**Blue: Kansas School for the Deaf
Olathe, KS**

**Green: Texas School for the Deaf
Austin, TX**