



Knights of Pi Math Tournament – May 16, 2009

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are answers to commonly asked questions about the Knights of Pi Math Tournament. We will post updates to this list if any information changes.

Q: Where can I find more information about the contest, besides this list?

A: More information can be found on our website at www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt. If you cannot find what you are looking for there, please contact us at kpmt@newportmathclub.org.

Q: What is the schedule of events?

A: A [tentative schedule](#) is available on our website.

Q: How do I register for the contest?

A: Registration for this contest is completed online at www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt. Coaches must create an account and then log in to register teams. All teams must be registered by May 6, and the names of team members must be entered by May 12. More information on how to register and pay is given in the [Registration & Payment Guide](#).

Q: What is the cost to participate in the competition?

A: The cost is \$40 per team of four people. Payment can be mailed in prior to the competition or paid at the door. Further information can be found in the [Registration & Payment Guide](#).

Q: How large is each team? What if we don't have enough people?

A: Each team consists of four members. Teams of three are allowed and will not be penalized, except in the tiebreaker rounds. Teams of two are allowed, but will be at a significant disadvantage and therefore are not recommended. Teams of less than four members must still pay the entire \$40 fee.

Q: How are teams formed?

A: Each team has up to four students. Teams may compete at the 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade level. No student on the team may be in a higher level than the team level (e.g., an eighth grader may not be on a seventh grade team), but students are welcome to compete at a higher level if they wish. Regardless of the team level, all students will compete individually in the division of their actual grade level. Students in 4th grade and below are welcome to participate in the 5th grade division, but should be prepared to be challenged.

Q: May parents and coaches spectate during the contest?

A: If parents and coaches wish to review the tests during test-taking times, they may do so in the coaches' room. We will have games, light refreshments, and extra copies of the tests available. Parents and coaches are also encouraged to attend the opening ceremony and the awards ceremony in the theater.

Q: What are the tests? How are they scored?

A: A document detailing [tests and scoring](#) is available on our website.

Q: Are calculators allowed?

A: Calculators are NOT allowed on any test during the competition. This makes the contest more fair and challenging for students, since we want to test the students' ability to solve problems and not simply push buttons on their calculators.

Q: Is there a guessing penalty?

A: None of the tests has a guessing penalty. There is no reason to leave any question blank.

Q: What is the format of the tests? Are there any multiple-choice problems?

A: The problems are not multiple-choice. All problems require students to fill in the blank. Students must write their answers on an answer sheet to receive credit.

Q: What are the answer format guidelines?

A: Answers must be simplified and reduced as much as possible. All answers should be expressed as reduced improper fractions, unless otherwise indicated. Radicals should be reduced such that the number inside of the radical is not divisible by the square of any integer greater than one. Units, though not required on any question, must be correct if given. If a question gives specific directions, they override any conflicting guidelines given here.

Q: What are the rules for the Mental Math round?

A: Contestants may not use any scratch paper. The only thing they may write on the answer sheet is an answer. All answers, once written, are final. Students may not erase or cross out, even if they make a mistake. Each team member will answer five questions, for a total of 20 questions per team. Each question will be read twice, but after that, the question will not be repeated. Students will have 30 seconds after the end of the second reading before the proctor reads the next question. If a team has only three members, one member may go twice. If a team has only two members, only one member may answer two sets, and one set must be left blank.

Q: What is the Puzzle Round?

A: The puzzle round is a one-hour test where teams work together to complete ten challenging number, word, and logic puzzles. While not directly math-related, this round encourages students to sharpen their creative problem solving abilities. Teams will use their answers from the ten questions to solve the final question for bonus points. In addition to counting towards team scores, there will be special prizes for the top teams on the puzzle rounds.

Q: What trophies will be awarded?

A: The top 3 individuals in each grade level (5, 6, 7, or 8) will receive awards. The top two teams in each grade level (5, 6, 7, or 8) will also receive awards. There will also be a special prize for the top teams on the Puzzle Round.

Q: Will I get copies of the tests and answer keys?

A: A copy of each test and answer key will be included in the coaches' packets distributed at the end of the day. They will also be posted on our website shortly after the competition.

If you have any further questions, please view our other reference documents online at www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt or contact us by email at kpmt@newportmathclub.org.

See you at the competition!