



2021 Optimist Brain Bowl Coaches' Startup Guide

The *Optimist Brain Bowl* is an academic quiz tournament for Colorado and Wyoming students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Teams compete in head-to-head rounds to determine the champion team in their grade level.

The Optimist Brain Bowl will not be hosting any in-person tournaments in 2021. Plans are underway to present one virtual tournament. *Teams that wish to participate should register for this tournament regardless of the region in which they have participated in the past.*

Tournament Date: January 30, 2021

Registration Fees: \$50 per team

Register at www.optimistbrainbowl.org.

Registration Deadline: December 1, 2020

Registrations are not final until payment has been received. No refunds will be made after registration payment has been submitted.

Team Formation

Teams may have 2-5 team members. Schools may register up to 3 teams.

Teams compete by level: 6th, 7th and 8th Grades. Sixth grade teams may have only 6th grade students. Seventh Grade teams may have 6th and 7th grade students. Eighth Grade teams may have 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. No students below 6th grade or above 8th grade may participate in this tournament.

Teams will be logging into their scheduled “rooms” for each round. Team members may log in from their individual homes or they may be seated in the same room following their school’s policies for social distancing.

Each team will be required to have a predesignated adult “room coach” to make sure team members are logged into the correct room and can lodge protests. This person must be available to tournament officials on tournament day should questions arise. The Head Coach may be a Room Coach but for only one team. Teams should take this requirement into account as they make their commitment to participate.

Tournament Play

Teams will be scheduled to play at least four morning rounds. All rostered team members may participate in each round. There will be no written round in this tournament.

Teams WILL NOT “Buzz-In” to give their answers in this tournament. Teams will alternate answering questions during the rounds. For instance, Red Team will be offered all the even numbered questions and Green Team will be offered all the odd numbered questions in the round. The number of questions per round has not been determined but there will be an even number of questions per round to give both teams opportunity to answer questions. When a team answers its question correctly, it receives one point. If the team does not answer or answers incorrectly, the opposing team can “steal” the question and will receive two points if it answers correctly. Officials will accept only responses that start with “ Answer: ____”. Officials will accept the first answer in this format and teams will not have the opportunity to change their answer. Teams are encouraged to appoint a single Spokesperson to give their official answers.

During morning play, the object is to earn as many points as possible over the course of the four rounds. During these rounds there is no play-off if a round ends in a tie. The eight teams with the highest score during the morning rounds in each level will be invited back to the elimination rounds in the afternoon. Place awards will be given to the top four teams in each level.

The Optimist Brain Bowl Committee is currently developing all the procedures for the online version of the tournaments. We will be testing them with our tournament Readers and volunteers to make sure that the Optimist Brain Bowl is fun and fair for everyone. ***There may be slight changes to the above when the official rules are released after the December 1 deadline.***

Coaches will receive information on roster submission and login information after December 1. The Schedule of the Day will be released January 1, 2021 so families can make plans for tournament day.

Practice questions are available for purchase through Knowledge Master at www.greatauk.com.

Questions regarding the 2021 Optimist Brain Bowl Virtual Tournament are welcome and should be directed to Connie Ackerman, connieackerman@comcast.net