

## Spiritual Festivity Rules and Regulations

**PLEASE NOTE: These rules and regulations are subject to change at any time without notice. Please revisit document for latest updates prior to day of event**

**(last update date August 2024)**

### Group Levels:

1. Junior High Participant: in 6th,7th,8th grades (Also: 5th going to 6th in September and 8th going to 9th in September)
2. High School Participant: in 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades (Also: 8th going to 9th in September and 12th graduating June)
3. College Participant: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors (Also: entering College in September and individuals up to and including 24 years of age)
4. A Participant who can belong to two groups shall sign up for either group. They cannot participate in both groups (regardless of whether the events fall on the same day or on different days)

### Registration Fees:

1. \$20 per participant (Junior High/High School/College teams)
2. \$10 per participant for the individual multiple-choice exam
3. To attend individual exam, select the option in the online registration form
4. **Registration closes on WEDNESDAY at midnight before each event. No additions and removals of participants is allowed beyond this point.**
5. Registration Fees are due the day of the event at check-in time. We accept credit cards, cash or checks. Please make checks payable to "St. George Coptic Orthodox Church"

### Individual Multiple-Choice Exam:

1. Participants in team competition can also take an individual exam
2. This exam is administered on the day of the competition and does not overlap with team event so participants can attend both
3. This exam is open to all participating churches
4. This exam has multiple choice questions from the books at each competing level (Junior High, High School, College)
5. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at each level: Junior High, High School and College
6. Winners will be announced at the end of the day along with the Team competition announcements
7. Winners will be given an individual award and a cash prize.
  - 1st place - \$100
  - 2nd place - \$75
  - 3rd place - \$50

### Team Competition:

1. This is a team competition in which a group of participants will be scored as a team
2. There are three age levels of team competitions: Junior High, High School, College. See group definitions above for a definition of each level
3. Each church can register up to two teams at each age level
4. Each team can have a minimum of 3 (new in 2017)
5. 3 to 9 individuals can sit in an exam. Team members can substitute in and out after (not during) an exam

6. If a Church chooses to register 2 teams, they must reach 17 participants before forming a second team.
7. A registration form must be completed for each team
8. After the registration deadline, no participants will be allowed to switch from one team to another.
9. Once the registration is completed and submitted, it is final, and no change will take place thereafter. Some rare exception may apply, decided by administration committee
10. Each team will be asked one question from each book and scored based on their answer
11. Time Limit:
  - **In Round 1:** 2 minutes to think, 2 minutes to answer
  - **Round of 16 and Quarter Final:** 3 minutes to think, 3 minutes to answer
  - **Semi Final and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place/Final:** 4 minutes to think, 4 minutes to answer
12. Only ONE team member can answer a question. No discussion or help from other team members, no exceptions. It can be a different team member for each question.
13. No study notes, books or cell phones are allowed during the exam. Once the exam begins, all these items must be removed from the area and all cell phones turned off and stowed away. No exceptions

### **Rounds and Exams:**

*Note: Exception rulings can be made by the administration committee to ensure event continuity*

1. Teams are divided into groups
2. Teams in a group compete during the first round to determine the ranking within the group
3. Exams are held one following the other
4. The first round includes 3 to 4 exams
5. Teams will compete at least twice in the first round to determine which teams advance
6. There are typically five rounds: Round 1, Round of 16, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, Finals. However, depending on the number of teams and other factors deemed by the administration committee, some rounds maybe skipped or added
7. Winners from one round advance to the next up to the finals
8. In the first round: the match winner receives 3 points, loser receives 0 points, in a tie both teams receive 1 point.
9. At the end of the first round, the teams with the most points advance to the next round (Round of 16 or Quarter Finals).
10. If 2 teams tie in points, then the team with the highest total score advances.
11. In the rare case that two teams are tied for points and score, one tiebreaker question would be asked to determine the team that will be advancing to the next round.

### **Judges:**

1. There will be 3 judges per match
2. Each church provides at least two qualified judges (e.g. Priest or Youth Servant)
3. Judges must be at least 25 years of age to participate in the HS/College event
4. Judges must be at least 21 years of age to participate in the Junior High event
5. Judges will not speak or comment on participating teams throughout the event
6. Judges will be fair and unbiased towards one team or another judge
7. Judges are assigned to groups where their own church teams are not competing
8. Judges shall not give any feedback to teams during exam (no nodding, "great answer", "missing answer", "are you done?", "more to add?", etc...)
9. Judges shall not hint or help either team during exam
10. Judges shall not disclose individual scores or answers during or after exam
11. Judges will ask a question to church "A" hand copy of the question, then same for church "B". Church "A" answers first then Church "B" answers. Reverse for next question

12. All team discussions stop once a team begins to answer
13. No discussion between judges during exam, only at end when totaling of scores
14. Judges shall not use any resources to score other than the answer written on sheet (no Bible, no Books, etc...)
15. No more than a 10-point difference between the three judges on each question
16. If the difference is more than 10 points, the judges should discuss among themselves and reconcile the difference to 10 points or less
17. The average points are computed, and the final score and winner announced. The average number of points is NEVER to be rounded to the nearest whole number
18. Before announcing the final score at the end of the match, the judges will review among themselves the scores given for each question. The scores are subject to change if a mistake was made in calculating the final scores
19. Judges will announce the scores and the winners of the exams except for final and 3rd & 4th place exams.
20. The winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place/Final Exam are not announced until the end of the awards ceremony. Monitors and judges should not share the result of the final and 3rd and 4th places.
21. Exam questions are balanced and reviewed by many individuals to ensure fairness and quality
22. **Judge decisions are final – no exceptions. The administration team will not change scores unless there was a mistake with the calculation.**

### **Scoring:**

*Note: Exception rulings can be made by the administration committee to ensure event continuity*

1. The maximum number of points for each question is 25 points
2. Each part of the answer will be given a point breakout, which is indicated on the judges' copy of the exams. As the answer is given, the judge gives points to individual parts of the answer using the point breakout
3. Each judge should mark the answers on the test sheet to indicate the answers given by each church and justify the score given to each question. Also marks parts that were missed from the answer. Judges should NEVER round scores to the nearest whole number
4. Each judge scores each answer separately
5. At the end of the match, the average of the scores from all 3 judges is used as the team's final score
6. The average must be NEVER to be rounded to the nearest whole number
7. If the final score is identical, the judges declare a tie.
8. Judges shall give completed scoring sheets to the room monitor at the end of the match
9. In tiebreakers: One tiebreaker question would be asked at a time (for each team). A team only must win by a 1-point difference for a tiebreaker question. Scores are NEVER to be rounded to the nearest whole number.
10. If there is any dispute during a round, the representative from the church with the dispute will discuss it with the room monitor without interrupting the exam and will submit a written complaint
11. Any disputes are handled and settled by the administration team.

### **Rule breaking:**

1. During the exam, once discussion time is over, no further discussion by either team is allowed
2. Only ONE team member can answer a question. No discussion or help from other team

members, no exceptions

3. Any study notes, pens, phones used during the exam will be considered a violation of the rules regardless of the intent
4. Any participant that needs to leave for any reason once the exam has begun, s/he can never return to the exam for that round.
5. Any individual caught cheating during a multiple-choice exam will be disqualified from the exam and asked to leave the exam
6. These and other disciplinary actions will be enforced at the discretion of the administrative team.
7. During an exam, any rule breaking or cheating will result in 25 points automatic deduction without warning. The individual with the violation will be removed from the rest of the competition.

**Photography, Audio & Video recording:**

1. No photography, Audio/Video recording during the rounds. Only assigned event administrators can take photos, record audio or video during the rounds.
2. Photography or Audio/Video recording is only allowed during the breaks and at the very end of the day during the awards ceremony
3. Anyone other than event administrators using a camera during the rounds will be asked to turn off the device or leave the room. No exceptions allowed.