

MATHCOUNTS UPDATE 7/15/20

State Coordinators,

Thank you for attending the conference calls on July 1 to review and discuss the Competition Series plan for next year. Based on your feedback and request for a decision sooner rather than later, we want to share that ***the March 2021 State Competition also will be an online event.*** (All of the competitions through and including the State Competition will be online.) We continue to hold out hope that the National Competition will be an in-person celebration.

We had a MATHCOUNTS board meeting yesterday, and this is the first communication to share that the Competition Series plan is now official for next year. Here is what is known:

- There will be an online Chapter Competition in February 2021 that will be open for a 24-hour period (date to be determined in the next couple of weeks).
- There will be the introduction of a new level of competition, the Chapter Invitational, to be administered in February 2021 (date to be determined in the next couple of weeks). All students who qualify will be required to take the Chapter Invitational on the same date and at the same time. Qualification for this event is based on the Individual Score on the Chapter Competition; a student must score in the top 20% of her chapter OR be the top-scoring student from her school on the Chapter Competition.
- The State Competition will be an online event (date to be determined). *The advancement requirements have not been ironed out yet. We are working to address concerns expressed during the July 1st calls.*
- In lieu of one School Competition, we will introduce online, practice competition events (hopefully 3-4) leading up to the Chapter Competition.
- Schools may register up to 15 students. Every student will register as an Individual; there will be no team member designation. The registration fee per student will remain the same this year.
- A student whose school will not allow a school registration may register as a non-school competitor (NSC). We will strongly encourage registrations through schools if it is at all possible for students to do so. We also will keep track of NSC registrations and, if necessary, follow-up to ensure their schools are not participating. The registration fee will be higher for an NSC (compared to a student registration through a school).

Note: We are working to have the Competition Series registration page ready for these new registration options on Monday, August 3. Until then, schools can register using the old registration page on the MATHCOUNTS website, and we'll contact them in August to see if they want to increase their number of students to 15. Once the new registration page is live, we will further increase school recruitment efforts and communicating out the new plan.

We have scheduled two webinar options for Chapter Coordinators tomorrow. We will talk through the plan as we did on the State Coordinator calls. I will be sending webinar access information shortly. If you receive any questions from your chapter coordinators about accessing this, please pass the message along to me.

Obviously, the role of a coordinator changes with this new process. However, ***the importance of the coordinator role is in no way diminished!*** Providing a challenging, effective, extra-curricular math program for students also has never been more important. Having a dedicated, enthusiastic, knowledgeable person as a link between schools and the national program has never been more

important. Now that we have been given the green light to move forward with this plan, we can work to figure out the specifics. We will continue to work with the Coordinator Council and we will communicate regularly with you to share how this is taking shape. There is admittedly a lot to sort out.

Some good news we can finally share...

When the National Competition event had to be canceled last year, Raytheon Technologies was wonderful about recognizing their support was still very needed. We discussed different ways their contribution could be utilized to support other areas of MATHCOUNTS. Staff recommended applying a portion of their FY20 donation (that was not used for nationals this year) to Chapter & State Support. They generously agreed. We are working on a plan with Sports Awards to provide a \$150 credit for each chapter and a \$250 credit for each state on Sports Awards purchases! (States also will continue to receive the state reimbursement of \$5 per registered student.) We will provide more specifics once the process has been finalized with Sports Awards.

Thank you for working with us to make the upcoming program year a rewarding experience for the kids and coaches!

Chris Bright
Program Manager
MATHCOUNTS Foundation