

Section 1422: DICTIONARY SKILLS

(a) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.
- (2) *Divisions.* This contest will consist of two divisions (fifth and sixth; seventh and eighth) unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.
- (3) *Individual Competition.* For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
- (4) *Team Competition.* If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score. A team must have three contestants competing to participate in the team competition.

(b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Summary.* Thorough knowledge of the dictionary is a way to increase a student's ability to find the information that is needed for class work as well as everyday living. The subject matter of all tests is taken from *Merriam Webster's Intermediate Dictionary*. Contestants may use other dictionaries in the contest. In preparation for this contest, students will develop skills to communicate effectively.
- (2) *Contest Format.* Each test consists of 40 objective questions. Contestants use dictionaries in the competition.
- (3) *Tests.* One test will be provided for grades 5 and 6; another test will be provided for grades 7 and 8. The League will make available one set of tests for invitational meets, one for fall/winter district meets and one for spring district meets.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) *Personnel.* All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.
 - (A) *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director.
 - (B) *Graders.* At least three graders should be familiar with the instructions for grading and the contest rules. The contest director may recruit more than three graders.
- (2) *Time Allotted For Contest.* Twenty minutes is allowed for the contest.
- (3) *Materials.*
 - (A) *Provided by UIL.* The following materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) for the dates when invitational materials will be available. See Section 1408 (e) for the dates when district materials will be available.
 - (i) Printed tests and answer sheets for 30 contestants in each packet.
 - (ii) Five copies of the answer key.
 - (iii) Two contest rosters.
 - (B) *Provided by the Host School.* Blank paper.
 - (C) *Provided by the Student or School.*
 - (i) Dictionary (which may be tabbed.)
 - (ii) Pens, pencils and/or erasers.
 - (D) *Other.* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.

(d) CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Number Contestants.* Distribute answer sheets. As roll is called, instruct the contestants to write their assigned contestant number in the upper right-hand corner of the answer sheet.
- (2) *Clear Room.* Contestants and coaches should be informed of the time and place of the verification period. Spectators and coaches not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest begins.

- (3) *Distribute Tests.* Place tests on the desk in front of each contestant, and direct them not to open the test until instructed to do so. Inform contestants that answers must be recorded on the answer sheet, not on the copy of the test. Give contestants a signal to begin.
 - (4) *Signal to Stop.* At the end of 20 minutes give a stop signal and ask contestants to put their pencils/pens down.
 - (5) *Test Collection.* Collect all tests, answer sheets, and note sheets.
- (e) **JUDGING.**
- (1) *Briefing Graders.* Brief graders on procedure to be used for grading and explain the scoring process.
 - (2) *Criteria.* The 40-question test is graded objectively. A perfect score is 120.
 - (3) *Scoring.* Each test should be independently scored twice, and papers contending to place should be scored a third time. For each correct answer, add three points. For each incorrect answer, subtract two points. No deduction is taken for skipped or unanswered items.
 - (4) *Ties.* No ties are to be broken in either the individual or the team component of this contest. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc.
 - (5) *Points.* Individual points shall be awarded through sixth place. Team points shall be awarded through third place. See Section 1408 (i). Tied contestants or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists.
- (f) **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Unofficial results should be posted. After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (g) **RETURNING MATERIALS.** No materials from the fall/winter district contest may be returned to contestants before January 31. No materials from the spring district contest may be returned to contestants before May 15.