



Knights of Pi Math Tournament – Dec. 12, 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 document?

A: More information can be found on our website at <http://www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt/>. If you cannot find what you are looking for there, please contact us at [kpmt@newportmathclub.org](mailto: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 <http://www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt/>. Coaches must create an account and then log in to register teams. Teams do not need to be registered at the same time the coach's account is created. The normal registration deadline is November 20, with a cost of \$40 per team of four students. Late registration is due online on December 5 and will cost \$48 per team. The names and grade levels of team members must be entered online by December 5, and this information may be updated at the door on the day of the competition as necessary. 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? How do I pay?

A: The cost is \$40 per team of four people for teams registered on or before November 20, and \$48 per team for teams registered after November 20. 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 or \$48 fee.

Q: How are teams formed?

A: Each team has up to four students. Teams may compete at the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade and below are welcome to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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, and may spectate during the Joust! round as teams race to complete challenge events.

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. See the [Scoring Guidelines & Tips](#) for more details.

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 Joust! round?

A: Joust! is a series of challenge events that will last approximately one hour. We don't want to give away all the details, but teams will compete in a variety of activities while moving around from station to station collecting points. Each station will present some sort of challenge where students' logic, math skills, teamwork, or creativity will be put to the test. In addition to counting towards team scores, there will be special prizes for the top teams on the Joust! contest.

Q: What trophies will be awarded?

A: The top individuals in each grade level (5, 6, 7, or 8) will receive awards. The top teams in each grade level (5, 6, 7, or 8) will also receive awards. There will also be a special prize for the top Joust! teams. Each competitor will also receive a certificate of participation to commend them on their efforts.

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](http://www.newportmathclub.org/kpmt) or contact us by email at [kpmt@newportmathclub.org](mailto:kpmt@newportmathclub.org).

See you at the competition!