



# Scoring Guidelines & Tips

Calculators or other aids may not be used on any portion of this contest. Blank scratch paper or graph paper is allowed on any test except on mental math.

## General Answer Format Guidelines

Unless stated otherwise on a specific test or problem:

1. For problems dealing with money, a decimal answer rounded to the nearest cent should be given (i.e., two dollars and sixty-three cents would be recorded as \$2.63).

2. Express all rational, non-integer answers as reduced common fractions.

( $\frac{6}{4}$  will **NOT** be accepted. Answer as  $\frac{3}{2}$ .)

3. All radicals must be simplified and all denominators must be rationalized.

( $\frac{1}{\sqrt{8}}$  will **NOT** be accepted. Answer as  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}$ .)

4. Units are not required on any question unless the answer deals with time, in which case, a.m. or p.m. is required. However, if you choose to provide units, they must be correct.

5. Give an exact answer when needed. Leave all answers in terms of  $\pi$  where appropriate.

6. Do not round any answers, unless stated otherwise.

7. All figures are not necessarily drawn to scale.

8. Record all answers on the colored answer sheets in the answer column only.

9. Make sure to fill out all the information at the top of the answer sheet.

10. Tests will not be scored if the answers are not recorded on the answer sheets.

11. Blank answer sheets and answer sheets with no name will not be scored.

## Tips

- Tests tend to start with easier questions, and the problems will generally become progressively more difficult. Focus on the problems you think you can solve.
- Don't spend too long on any question. There will be questions you do not know how to solve. We don't expect you to know everything—otherwise this contest wouldn't be challenging. Don't be discouraged; skip hard questions and return to them if you have time.
- You will not have time to finish every question on the test. Use your time wisely.
- Strong teams have a plan for working together. Prepare an effective strategy ahead of time.
- If you skip a question, make sure your next answer is in the correct box on the answer sheet. If you write the correct answer in the wrong box, it will not count.