

2026 College Bowl Rules

I. Purpose

The Peter Ronai NEACSM College Bowl exists to promote academic excellence, professional development, and student engagement among undergraduate students enrolled in exercise science, kinesiology, and related academic programs throughout the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) New England Regional Chapter.

The competition serves as the official process by which ACSM New England selects its team for the ACSM National Student Bowl. Regional participation is governed by these NEACSM College Bowl Rules. ACSM establishes and interprets National Student Bowl eligibility requirements and determines who may compete nationally.

II. Institutional Eligibility

1. Institutions participating in the Peter Ronai NEACSM College Bowl must be located within the geographic boundaries of the American College of Sports Medicine New England Regional Chapter.
2. Participation is limited to accredited colleges and universities physically located within Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
3. Each team shall represent only one eligible institution.
4. Each participating institution may enter one team consisting of three (3) eligible student competitors unless otherwise authorized by the NEACSM College Bowl Committee.

III. Student Eligibility

Each team shall consist of three (3) eligible student competitors.

Each student competitor must:

1. Be officially classified as an undergraduate student by their institution at the time of the NEACSM College Bowl.
2. Represent only the eligible institution with which they are affiliated for the current NEACSM College Bowl.

3. Satisfy the applicable regional eligibility requirements outlined in these NEACSM College Bowl Rules.
4. Participate on behalf of only one institution during the current NEACSM College Bowl competition.
5. Provide or authorize additional eligibility verification when reasonably requested by the NEACSM College Bowl Committee.

IV. National Student Bowl Participation

The winning team earns the opportunity to represent ACSM New England at the National ACSM Student Bowl, subject to ACSM's eligibility requirements and final determination.

1. ACSM establishes, interprets, and verifies National Student Bowl eligibility requirements. Regional participation or victory does not itself establish national eligibility; NEACSM's registration review verifies eligibility for the regional competition.
2. As noted in the registration form, ACSM's National Student Bowl participation policy limits students to two (2) appearances during their academic career. This national policy is provided for awareness; ACSM determines its application and any subsequent changes.
3. Participation in a regional Student Bowl that does not result in advancement to the National ACSM Student Bowl shall not count toward this limit.
4. Previous National Student Bowl participation, including participation occurring prior to adoption of the current National policy, shall count toward the two-participation limit.

V. Faculty Representative Responsibilities & Eligibility Certification

1. Each participating institution shall designate one faculty representative.
2. The designated faculty representative shall review these rules with all student competitors prior to registration.
3. The faculty representative shall certify through the official NEACSM College Bowl Registration Form that:
 - a. The institution satisfies current ACSM New England institutional eligibility requirements;
 - b. Each student competitor satisfies the regional student eligibility requirements outlined in these rules;
 - c. Each student's institutional undergraduate status is accurately reported; and
 - d. All other registration information is complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge.
4. The faculty representative shall sign and date the registration form as part of this certification.

5. Participating institutions agree to provide additional supporting documentation or administrative verification if requested by the NEACSM College Bowl Committee.

VI. Eligibility Review

1. The NEACSM College Bowl Committee reserves the right to review regional participant eligibility before, during, or after registration.
2. Teams determined to be ineligible may have their registration declined or withdrawn prior to competition or may be disqualified if eligibility requirements are later determined not to have been met.
3. The College Bowl Committee may request documentation reasonably necessary to verify regional institutional or student eligibility, including institutional undergraduate classification and affiliation.
4. Questions about National Student Bowl eligibility and verification shall be directed to ACSM. NEACSM's regional eligibility review does not replace ACSM's national eligibility determination.
5. The Committee's interpretation of regional eligibility requirements shall be final, subject to the appeals process in Section VII. ACSM retains authority over National Student Bowl eligibility.

VII. Eligibility Questions and Appeals

1. Institutions with questions regarding eligibility are encouraged to contact the College Bowl Committee prior to submitting registration materials.
 2. Requests for clarification should be submitted before the registration deadline whenever possible to avoid delays in the registration process.
 3. Appeals concerning regional eligibility determinations shall be reviewed by the NEACSM College Bowl Committee in consultation with the NEACSM Executive Leadership Team, when appropriate. Review and appeals determine whether these rules have been correctly applied and do not permit waiver of the six-state geographic requirement in Section II. Decisions regarding regional eligibility are final. Questions concerning National Student Bowl eligibility shall be directed to ACSM.
-

VIII. Competition Set-Up

Here is some brief information concerning the 2026 NEACSM College Bowl:

Set-up

1. Competitors will sit as teams of three at designated tables.
2. Competitors will sit in front facing the emcee and game board screens in groupings or sections based on their school's state.
3. A Head judge's table (for three (3) Head judges) will be placed in front of the teams.
4. One NEACSM Committee member will serve as a scorekeeper for every two to three teams, standing in front of or behind the teams, and will keep score for those teams. Each scorekeeper must bring a tablet or laptop with wireless connectivity and use the provided Google Sheet scoreboard to keep a live score.
5. Each team will have a faculty representative from a different college or university sitting with them to manually keep score as a backup and help ensure fairness and integrity in answers and challenges. These representatives will also assist the scorekeepers with real-time score recording on the Google Sheet scoreboard using hand gestures, such as "thumbs up" for correct answers, "thumbs down" for incorrect ones, and "hands crossed" for challenges to maximize efficiency and flow.
6. An official timer will be positioned at the end of the judges' table to monitor a 10-second interval for each question. Teams must write their answer within this period using the markers and notepads provided, then hold up their completed responses so scorekeepers, faculty representatives, and judges can see each team's answer. (The time may be adjusted based on the question's difficulty).
7. Schools will be invited to display their school banners in front of their team table.
8. All participants will wear their NEACSM conference name tags.

IX. Questioning

1. Jeopardy-style, PowerPoint format with questions derived from undergraduate exercise science curricula.
2. The Emcee will read each question aloud.
3. Each team will have an equal chance to answer each question by writing the answer on the notepads and paper provided when the emcee calls on them. Teams will have 10 seconds starting when the emcee finishes reading the question.
4. Every team answering the question correctly will receive the designated number of points associated with the chosen question. Questions are short fill-ins. Teams must display their answer within 10 seconds of it being asked. Incorrect answers result in a subtraction of points equal to the corresponding question. In the first two rounds, a non-answer will result in no change in score (no points subtracted).
5. The competition consists of two regulation rounds—Single Jeopardy and Double Jeopardy—followed by Final Jeopardy for eligible teams. ***The game boards for Single Jeopardy and Double Jeopardy will be designed in a 5 x 3 configuration (five categories of three questions).**

6. Only teams with positive amounts after Double Jeopardy can compete in the Final Jeopardy round.
7. For Final Jeopardy, teams must state their wagered/risked amount before hearing the question. The scorekeepers must enter all wagers into the Google Sheet scoreboard before the Emcee reads the "Final Jeopardy Question." Each team's final score will be changed by the amount designated, depending on whether they get the question correct or incorrect. *Teams will be given one to two (1-2) minutes to answer "Final Jeopardy" (as opposed to 10 seconds), depending on the level of difficulty. Teams will need to place a wager, and points are dispersed accordingly. A wager of zero is accepted.
8. No points are added if a team answers the final question correctly but wagers zero. If a team answers incorrectly or elects not to answer the final question, the wagered points will be deducted from their point total. This is different from the first two rounds, in which no answer resulted in no point subtraction. The team with the highest total points wins.
9. In the event of a tie after the final question, the team with the largest number of correct answers in both rounds will be declared the winner.
10. Three (3) head judges will confirm and interpret answers in the event of ambiguity or challenges. They will discuss and decide as a group and rule with one voice. Each team is afforded one (1) challenge during Single Jeopardy and one (1) challenge during Double Jeopardy. Challenges do not carry over between rounds.
11. There will be a 25-minute time limit on each game board. The timekeeper will notify the emcee a few minutes before the time limit is reached. Play will end on that particular game board once the time limit is reached. Entire game boards might not necessarily be completed within those times.
12. If the number of teams requires it, a shorter game board and a 20-minute time limit per game board might be imposed.

***In the event that time is running short, NEACSM College Bowl staff reserve the right to implement a sudden death overtime.**

X. Personnel

1. **The Emcee** will verify the point values for each question and give the correct answers, prompting each team to hold up their notepads or answer sheets with their recorded responses for every question.
2. **Head Scorekeeper.** During the rounds, one head scorekeeper will oversee the Google Sheet scoreboard to ensure correct point amounts for properly answered questions by the teams at the end of each round. They will verify each team's answers by monitoring the Google Sheet and collaborating with the other Scorekeepers. The Head Scorekeeper will also oversee floor challenges, bringing them directly to the three judges, and coordinate with the Gameboard host and emcee to signal when to proceed to the next question.
3. **Scorekeepers** will oversee 2-3 teams and log each team's responses on the Google Sheet scoreboard using their personal electronic devices, such as laptops or tablets.

They will tally the responses for their assigned 2-3 teams during Rounds 1 and 2, enabling the Head Scorekeeper to project team standings to the audience.

- a. ***Scorekeepers must report to the ballroom at 5:15 pm for their table assignments and description of their duties.***
4. **Faculty Representatives** will sit with each team to manually record responses on backup analog score sheets for the Google Sheet scoreboard. They will oversee their teams to ensure academic integrity and will use hand gestures—such as a "thumbs up" for correct answers, "thumbs down" for incorrect ones, and "hands crossed" for challenges—to help scorekeepers maintain efficiency and a smooth flow when entering scores for each team after each round of questions.
 - a. ***Faculty representatives must report to the ballroom at 5:15 pm for their table assignments and description of their duties.***
5. **Three (3) head judges** will confirm and interpret answers in the event of ambiguity or challenges. They will discuss and decide as a group and rule with one voice.
6. The **Game Board Host** will be responsible for operating and displaying all Jeopardy boards via their laptop. They will coordinate directly with the Emcee and Head Scorekeeper, advancing to each new question after receiving confirmation from the Head Scorekeeper that all teams' answers have been correctly recorded on the Google Sheet scoreboard. Additionally, the Game Board host will manage all informational and intermission slides related to the competition.
7. The official **Game Timer** will sit at the judges' table. After a question is asked, the timekeeper will run a stopwatch for 10 seconds and announce "TIME" at the ten (10) second mark. They will also give the emcee a 5-minute warning for ending each game board and keep track of the total time for the round (not to exceed 25 minutes).

XI. Awards

1. The winning team will win a 2026 NEACSM College Bowl Championship trophy.
2. A traveling trophy engraved with the current champion's school name will remain at the champion's school for display until the next college bowl tournament.
3. All participants will receive an NEACSM College Bowl participation certificate signed by the three NEACSM presidents.
4. The winning eligible team will earn the opportunity to represent ACSM New England at the 2027 ACSM National Student Bowl in Indianapolis, Indiana, during the ACSM Annual Meeting, subject to applicable National Student Bowl eligibility requirements and ACSM's final eligibility determination.

XII. Addendum

Representatives from each school must complete a Team Registration Form and submit their team fee of \$100 to the NEACSM OFFICE:

- Form to neacsm1@gmail.com
- Payment via PayPal at www.NEACSM.org/college-bowl

Please submit these materials on or before **October 30, 2026!** *Students must also register for the conference and be current NEACSM members or join NEACSM upon arrival at the conference!

All schools are asked to submit a single PowerPoint slide showing their three students together (one picture), with their names, school name, and logo, by October 30th. This will be part of the slideshow projected in the MassMutual Center all day on Thursday.