

Quiz Bowl Gulf Coast Competition Rules

Overview

Students will demonstrate their civil engineering knowledge, apply classroom concepts in a competitive setting, and promote teamwork, communication, and professional development through friendly competition.

Objective

Answer a variety of civil engineering themed questions. Topics will vary, challenging teams to think like they're taking the ultimate FE exam.

Eligibility

Teams shall consist of no more than 5 student members currently enrolled as full-time undergraduate students in the registered institution for the competition.

Competition Structure

The Quiz Bowl includes:

- Preliminary Round 1: All registered teams compete
- Preliminary Round 2: All teams compete again
- Final Round: Top 5 teams advance based on combined points from both preliminaries

Ranking for advancement is based on total points earned across both preliminary rounds.

If two or more teams tie for 5th place, a sudden-death question determines who advances.

Question & Response Format

- A question will be displayed or read aloud to all teams simultaneously. Teams do not choose questions or categories (i.e. Jeopardy style).
- Every team answers each question.
- Teams submit answers using the approved method (paper, clickers, buzzer-app, etc.), as defined by the organizers.

Scoring

Correct answers earn points based on response time.

Example scoring structure (organizers may adjust):

- 1st team correct: +10 points
- 2nd team correct: +8 points
- 3rd team correct: +6 points
- All other correct teams: +4 points
- Incorrect answer: 0 points

Incorrect answers will result in negative points (the amount of which will be determined prior to the competition). All points from preliminary rounds carry into advancement calculations.

Timing

Each question has a fixed response window (e.g., 20–30 seconds). Answers must be submitted before time expires. Late responses receive 0 points, even if correct. In the final round, the answer window may be shortened.

Conduct & Collaboration

- Teams may discuss answers only with their own members.
- Teams must remain seated and may not interact with other teams during questions.
- Use of notes, internet, calculators, phones, or outside assistance is prohibited unless explicitly allowed.

Challenges

Only a team captain may submit a challenge. Challenges must be made immediately after the question is scored. The result of the challenge will be provided to the challenger prior to the final round.

Challenges in the final round must be made immediately after the question is scored. The result of the challenge will be provided to the challenger prior to the last question of the final round. If the challenge would not affect the final outcome of the first three places, the organizer may forgo providing a response to the challenging team. *Rulings of the judges are final.*

Tie-Breaking in the Final

If two or more teams are tied for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd after the final round:

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- A single sudden-death question will be asked.
- First correct team wins the tie-breaker.
- If no team answers correctly, additional sudden-death questions continue until resolved.

Awards

Awards may be presented for:

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams
- Highest scoring team in a single round (optional)
- Spirit/Sportsmanship Award (optional)

Professional Behavior

All participants are expected to demonstrate professionalism, respect, and sportsmanship.

Disruptive behavior, delaying tactics, or harassment toward officials or other teams may result in point deductions or disqualification.

Content

Any content areas listed in the ABET accreditation criteria for Civil Engineering and similarly named programs is fair game for questions. Teams are encouraged to compile a diverse team to address the breadth of questions that can be asked.