



Bishop Garrigan High School
1224 N. McCoy
Algona, Iowa 50511

August 2020

Dear Quiz Bowl Coach,

2020 continues to be one of the most memorable years ever, though I suspect it may be a year most of us would rather forget. Many events have been cancelled, and others have changed their format. After a lot of thought, and following the decision of the music association to move their fall contests online, I have decided that the 30th Annual Bishop Garrigan Quiz Bowl Tournament will be held virtually this year. Many schools have prohibited or severely limited travel for school activities, so this is likely to be the best way we can deal with things this year. Please continue reading if your school is interested in participating.

The event will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, October 10 and 17, 2020. Competitions will be held using a videoconference app, most likely using Google Meet. Schools will decide whether their teams will be together in a single location or individually competing from home. Whichever setting is chosen, each student should use an individual device. The camera and microphone on each device should be on throughout the game.

The rules for games will be similar to what has traditionally been used at the Garrigan tournament, but there will be certain modifications. (Many of these are based on the virtual National Academic Championships that were held in summer 2020.)

- Only 2 teams will compete in each game. There will be no 3-team games.
- Toss-Up Questions: Instead of “slapping” or “buzzing”, students who wish to answer should loudly say their school name and their name (e.g.: “North Union – Smith”). The judge will recognize the student by repeating that information. The student should then give an answer.
- Bonus Questions: Teams may confer either vocally or using the chat feature in the app. Teams will have slightly longer to confer than at traditional tournaments (7 – 8 seconds, after which the moderator will say “Answer?”). The captain should then give the answer immediately. If the team is ready to answer before time is called, the captain may say the word “Answer” and give the answer.
- Lightning Round: The time allowed will be 70 seconds rather than 60. Teams may confer either vocally or using the chat feature in the app. Once a final answer is reached, the captain should say the word “Answer” and then give the answer. The captain may also say the word “Pass”. If time remains, passed questions will be re-asked. There will be no “steals” for the other team.

Otherwise the game rules will be those you can find on our website at <https://bggoldenbears.org/qb/>.

Depending on the number of teams that enter, teams will be divided into 2 or 3 pools. (The most likely format is two pools, with one playing on the 10th and one on the 17th.) In preliminary rounds they will play either 3 or 4 preliminary games against other teams in their pool. The different pools will be asked different sets of questions so that teams from the same school can't share answers with each other. The top teams (most likely the top four, but this again depends on the number of entries) will have a playoff at the end of the day on the 17th.

We will be scheduling about 45 minutes per game. Teams will likely have gaps in the schedule between their scheduled games, since to minimize the number of moderators needed, there will probably be different sections of the same round. Teams should log on to the appropriate virtual “room” at the starting time of each scheduled game and leave once that game is over.

We will try to staff as much as much of the moderators and judges as possible “in-house”. However, we may need some assistance from the coaches. Particularly some of you who have done a good job with reading in the past may be asked to do that again.

Our entry fee this year is again just **\$25.00 per team**. Because of the format, we will be limiting entries to two teams per school, though there will be an option to enter a third team if space is available. Space will be more limited than usual this year, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible. You may register by mail or e-mail your registration to burrowd@bishopgarrigan.org, but if you e-mail the registration, payment must follow by the deadline. If writing a school

check is time-consuming in your district, we encourage you to send a personal check and get reimbursed by your school. Please complete the enclosed registration and return it with your payment as soon as possible. In order to create a workable schedule, registrations must be received by **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**. If possible, please register earlier, as scheduling may take longer this year.

Again, **space is more limited than usual**, and we encourage you to register early. This will be something new for all of us, but hopefully it will provide as good a tournament as possible under the circumstances.

If you have any further questions, feel free to leave a message for me on my cell phone (515/341-3763) or at school (515/295-3521). You may also e-mail me at burrowd@bishopgarrigan.org. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Additional information, including last year's questions (which you are free to use for practice) is on our website at <http://bgoldenbears.org/qb/>.

One special note to Top of Iowa Conference coaches: We will **not** be hosting a conference tournament in November. We would like to host again, but if we do it is likely to be a spring event.

Thank-you for your interest. I look forward to seeing you October 10 and/or 17.

Sincerely,

David M. Burrow
Gifted and Talented Coordinator
Bishop Garrigan High School