

The State Math Contest and the NCASA

November 28, 2010

This document outlines how schools that participate in the NC State Math Contest network (<http://math.ncssm.edu/smc>) can earn points toward NCASA's Scholastic Cup (<http://www.ncscholastic.org>)

Divisions

Though the State Math Contest offers exams in four different levels (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Comprehensive), only participation in the Comprehensive division earns NCASA points. Thus only the Comprehensive division is considered throughout the rest of this document. (Note: We may consider in the future a mechanism for earning points in the other three divisions, but not at this time.)

Preservation of Qualifying Site autonomy

Each qualifying site currently operates, and will continue to operate, their respective contests autonomously, setting their own rules for participation, competition, etc. Qualifying sites must still hold their respective contests on or before a given date each year (to provide for timely reporting of qualifiers to the State Finals round).

Qualification of a *school team* to the State Math Contest (Comprehensive Finals)

If two or more students from a school qualify for the State Finals, regardless of qualifying site, that school would be eligible to compete as a *team* at the State Math Contest. A team's score is based on scores of three students (see following section), so if a school indeed only has two individual qualifiers, that school may opt to bring along a third "non-qualifier" for team score purposes. (Schools with three or more qualifiers would not be allowed to bring any additional team members.) These "non-qualifiers" fully participate in the State Math Contest and other activities the day of the contest, but only actual qualifiers are eligible for individual awards at the State Contest.

While most (if not all) qualifying sites already give team awards, those local team awards are independent of this NCASA team qualification system.

A school may substitute members for the team once the school has qualified as a team, but any non-qualified students would not be eligible for individual awards or scholarships at the State Finals.

Computation of Team Score at Comprehensive Finals Contest

For those schools participating as a team at the State Math Contest (Comprehensive Finals), their team score would simply be the sum of the scores of the three highest-scoring students on that team.

Team Awards at Comprehensive Finals Contest

In addition to the individual awards that are already presented at the State Math Contest (Comprehensive Finals), we would additionally present awards to high-scoring schools (participating as a team). Though these details are still being finalized, we would likely present plaques to the five schools with the highest team scores.

Earning points toward the NCASA Scholastic Cup

Schools will earn Cup points as follows:

1. *Points for participating at a Qualifying Site* – All schools that send a team to any qualifying site’s contest (Comprehensive level) will earn Participation Points (i.e. five points). If a school sends teams to multiple qualifying sites, that school only earns these points “once.” For purposes of this rule, each qualifying site constructs its own definition of a “team.” (In the case that a qualifying site does not have a “team” component to its competition, we would consider at least 2 students from the same school, competing at the same site, to comprise a “team” for participation points purposes.)
2. *Points for placing as a team at State Finals* – The ten schools with the highest team scores at the Comprehensive Finals will earn points based on the scale published online at <http://www.ncscholastic.org/scholastic.cup.php>. (50 points for first place, etc.)

Additional Notes & Disclaimer

Due to physical limitations, some qualifying sites set a cap on one or more of the following: the number of schools that participate, the number of students that can participate per school, or the total number of participating students at the site. Thus schools desiring to participate should communicate early with local qualifying sites. While our system does provide to schools in NC an equal opportunity to qualify and move on to the State Finals, and it’s extremely rare that schools ever are “turned away,” the State Math Contest Network cannot be held responsible for the inability of a school to register for a local contest due to space or similar constraints. While all involved with the State Math Contest desire for as many schools and students as possible to participate in math contests, we simply also want to acknowledge that physical constraints may exist.

The State Math Contest (Comprehensive Finals) is also currently experimenting with an online version of the contest. The Contest Committee may in the future allow (or possibly even require) some students to participate in the online version of the contest. This may allow for increased overall participation as space becomes a greater issue. (For example, in the case of a school that sends two qualifying students and a third non-qualifier, the non-qualifier may take the online version, but still have their score count for purposes of team standing and NCASA Scholastic Cup points.)

Examples

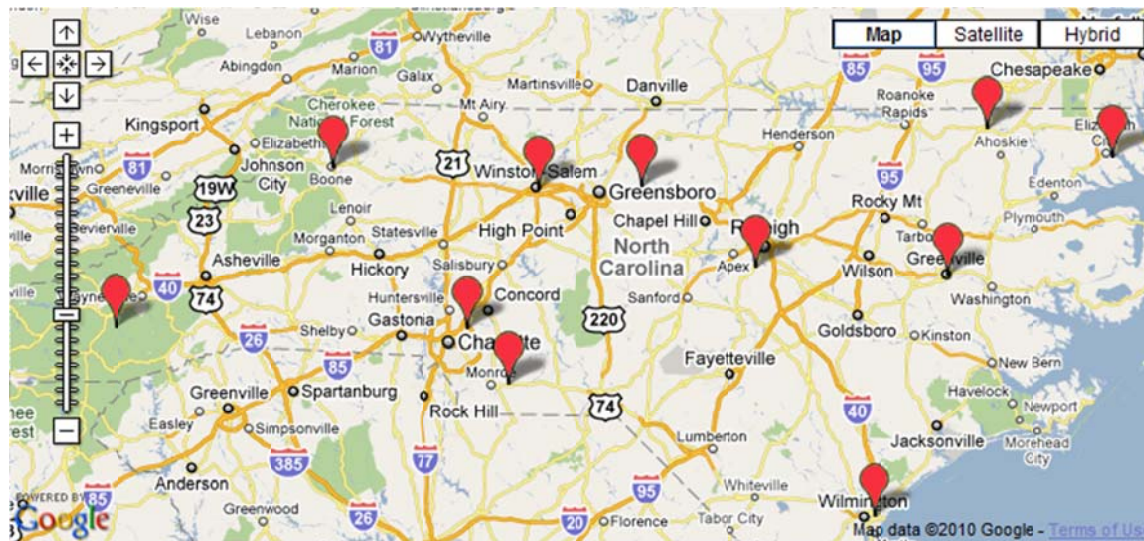
School X sends a team of 8 students to the contest at ECU. One of these 8 students qualifies to advance to the Comprehensive Finals round. Only this student may participate at the Comprehensive Finals. School X would earn a total of five cup points.

School Y sends a team of 5 students to Elon and a team of 5 different students to Wake Tech. One student at Elon and one student at Wake Tech each qualify for the Comprehensive Finals. School Y then selects a third “non-qualifier” student to join the two qualifiers, forming a team of three students to participate at the Comprehensive Finals. If School Y’s team does not place in the top 10 at the state finals, they earn a total of five cup points.

School Z sends a team of 9 students to WCU, and 5 of these qualify for Comprehensive Finals. All 5 compete in the state finals round; the top 3 scores at this round comprise School Z’s team score. Furthermore, School Z’s team score is the highest team score, so they earn a total of $5+50=55$ cup points.

Appendix

For reference, following is a map (current as of the 2011 season) of qualifying sites that offer competition in the Comprehensive division:



More information about the contest is available at the State Math Contest website:
<http://math.ncssm.edu/smc/>

More information about the NCASA Scholastic Cup can be found at:
<http://www.ncscholastic.org/scholastic.cup.php>