Science Atlantic Mathematics and Statistics Division Committee

Policy on Mathematics Competitions

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines and procedures for the annual Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Students' Conference Mathematics Competition (“The Competition”), which is overseen and supported by the Mathematics and Statistics Division Committee ("The Committee").

Scope

This policy applies to all participants (student, faculty, or otherwise) participating in the Competition (as organizers, coaches, or participants).

Policy

Competition Format

1. The Competition shall be a Putnam-style competition in mathematics, three hours long and with eight questions.
2. Teams normally consisting of two students from the same member institution shall compete in the Competition, working in collaboration.
3. If an odd number of students from the same member institution compete in the Competition, the odd student out will be put into a matching pool. From the matching pool, teams of student pairs will be made at random. If there is an odd number of students in the matching pool, the odd student out will be randomly assigned to one of the new pairs. If the matching pool has only one student, then that student may compete alone.
4. There shall be no limit on the number of teams from any member institution.
5. The format of the Competition, including any deviations from the Putnam-style format, can only be modified in consultation with and approval of the Committee.
6. Any changes to the Competition format must be publicly advertised on the conference website and to the Committee at least 3 months in advance of the Competition.

Conflict of Interest

1. No person involved in the development of the Competition each year, including typesetting and question authoring, shall coach any student participants of the Competition during the same year.
2. The Committee shall ensure that all individuals involved in the development of the Competition are free from conflicts of interest and shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate any potential conflicts.

Responsibilities

The Committee shall be responsible for:

1. Overseeing and supporting the Competition.
2. Approving any changes to the Competition format.
3. Ensuring that a conflict-of-interest policy is in place and implemented effectively.

Faculty representatives of member institutions shall be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that their student participants comply with the Competition rules and regulations.
2. Notifying the Committee of any potential conflicts of interest involving their student participants or institutional representatives.

Individuals involved in the development of the Competition shall be responsible for:

1. Providing regular updates to Committee on the development of the Competition.
2. Publicly advertising any changes to the Competition format at least 3 months in advance of the Competition.

Effective Date and Review

This policy shall be effective upon approval by the Committee and shall be reviewed at least every 3 years to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

Approval date: April 9, 2024