

“I registered my students...now what’s the deal with the online competition process this year?”



Was I supposed to download the School Competition this year?

No. Instead, there are four online practice competitions provided for both your registered students and up to 50 more students you select.



Must my students take the online practice competitions?

No. Online Practice Competitions #1-4 are offered for math practice and to allow competitors to become comfortable with the online competition platform. It is strongly recommended that your official competitors at least take Practice Competition #4.



What are the differences between the four online practice tests?

There are differences in difficulty, length, rounds that are offered, time frames they are offered and who can participate.

DIFFICULTY: The online practice competitions get more difficult as students progress from Practice Competition #1 (PC1) through Practice Competition #4 (PC4).

LENGTH: The amount of time for each round remains the same as for official competitions (40-minute Sprint; 6-minute Target pairings; 20-minute Team). The number of problems, however, start at half for PC1 and increase to the usual number (30 Sprint, 8 Target, 10 Team) by PC3.

ROUNDS: All competitions have the Sprint and Target Rounds. Coaches have the option of putting their students into teams and taking a Team Round for PC1, PC2 and PC3. However, PC4 is designed to exactly mimic the official Chapter Competition, so there is no Team Round component.

TIME FRAMES PC1, PC2 and PC3 each has a release date, but all three competitions will remain available to students online through February 28, 2021. Note that AoPS is also hosting Math Jams 1-2 weeks after the release dates to go over solutions with students. PC4, designed to mimic the official Chapter Competition, is only available for the 24-hour period of January 22, 2021, 1:00pm ET through January 23, 2021, 1:00pm ET.

PARTICIPANTS: All of your registered students, plus up to 50 more students you identify, can participate in PC1, PC2 and PC3. Only your official competitors, however, can participate in PC4. Please identify your official competitors on your AoPS Coach Portal by January 15, 2021.



Are my official competitors required to take PC4?

No. However, our hope is all official competitors will take PC4 so they are comfortable with the online system, they know their Internet connectivity is sufficient, and they have tested their login credentials. Additionally, we want to create a situation that mimics the Chapter Competition on our end, too, to ensure our system is capable of handling that number of users.



Is there a Team Round component to the competitions?

Yes and No. PC1, PC2 and PC3 have Team Round options. PC4 and all official competitions through the State Competition will not have a Team Round.



As a coach, what is my role in addressing cheating?

In short, there are no requirements of coaches. However, there are things we are asking coaches to do for the Chapter and Chapter Invitational Competitions to help ensure a successful MATHCOUNTS competition season.

MATHCOUNTS asks coaches to...

- (1) Encourage all of your students to take the Chapter Competition at the same time.
- (2) Talk with students about competition integrity ahead of time.
 - ++ Reinforce the idea that any cheating student who progresses to the next level is taking the spot from a deserving student.
 - ++ Discuss what competition integrity includes, such as
 - taking the competitions in a completely honest way and following all rules;
 - not using a calculator during the Sprint Round;
 - not seeking out, accepting or giving assistance in any way; and
 - not discussing the content of the competitions with other students until 3 days after competition windows have closed (which allows us time to address any unusual testing situations).
- (3) Identify a way to have students proctored, perhaps using one of the following ways...
 - ++ If school instruction is in-person, identify a way for students to take the competition at school under your supervision. (Students will need computers to take the competition and should take PC4 in the same environment to test Internet connectivity.)
 - ++ If school instruction is online, utilize the interactive technology you typically use in your online classroom environment so you can watch students during testing.
 - ++ Set the expectation that parents are to proctor students during testing and confirm with you afterwards that they did so.



How and when will winners be notified and recognized?

Students and coaches will have access to their **SCORES** through their portals on the AoPS website within 1 week after each competition window concludes.

Students and coaches will be notified of **ADVANCEMENT** to the Chapter Invitational and/or State Competition within 1 week after each competition window concludes. (Every school will have at least 1 student advance to the Chapter Invit. based on Chapter Competition results.)

Student certificate templates will be available on the Coach Portal for coaches to recognize students' participation and success at the Chapter Competition level. **MATHCOUNTS will not be distributing AWARDS for the Chapter Competition.** Volunteer coordinators have been asked to recognize winners at the Chapter Invitational level with the usual awards of trophies, plaques, certificates, etc.