

National Academic League®



2008-2009 Season—

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another exciting season of the National Academic League®! As always, we have a brand new set of games filled with challenging and diverse questions to stimulate the minds of our Academic Athletes. We listened to feedback from you and have made some changes we think you will like in our Rules & Guidelines book and Study Book. We have also added a Practice Game.

The Rules & Guidelines book is reorganized with easy-to-use summary tables at the beginning of most sections. The summary tables list frequently referenced facts, and are followed by detailed information. You will also find a comprehensive index at the back of the Rules & Guidelines book—very helpful for quickly locating specific topics.

The Study Book is redesigned to include succinct information for each quarter, including scoring strategies. Sample questions for each quarter help coaches and players understand the nuances of each quarter. A new section, Third Quarter Details, walks coaches and players through the process of preparing for a competition, including pre-game research, game-day preparation, presentations and scoring criteria. The Study Topics section lists both general and specific topics that are included in the 2008-2009 NAL® gamesets.

We'd like to know how you like these changes—please send us your feedback.

New for 2008-2009: Practice Game

We are pleased to offer a Practice Game this season.

This full-length game features:

- 35 1st Quarter Roundabout questions;
- 25 2nd Quarter Teamwork Questions;
- 1 3rd Quarter Problem-Solving Question; and
- 40 4th Quarter One-on-One Questions.



The game is a great coaching and practice tool. Players can learn content, format, and flow of the game. Teams can split up and play a practice game with each other. Unlike official gamesets, the Practice Game may be purchased by coaches, parents and players, and the game questions may be used as many times as you like.

The Practice Game is available for \$29.95 plus \$5.00 shipping & handling. It is also available bundled with the Study Book for \$34.95 plus \$5.00 shipping & handling—more than a 25% discount of the price when bought separately. Contact the National Office for more information or to order your Practice Game or Practice Game/Study Book bundle.

Volume 2, Issue 1

November 13, 2008

Reminders

Keep in touch at the address & phone number below.

Check the website for updates & information about the upcoming season.

*National Academic League®
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NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS: Getting Organized for the New Season

As the 2008-2009 season gets underway we ask our League Commissioners to update their league information. Below is a list of items we need to have on file for this season:

1. **National Academic League® Trademark Policy**—outlines proper use of Federally registered NAL® trademarks;
2. **National Academic League® Question Bank® Usage Agreement**—explains terms of use of NAL® Question Bank® game materials;
3. **District Information Sheet**—contact, billing, etc. information;
4. **School Information Sheet**—information on participating schools;
5. **NAL® Release Form**—allows use of photographs in NAL® newsletters, website, and in other NAL® publications.

Please take some time to complete this information for your league. **Forms are available online at www.nationalacademicleague.org**. Click on Player Resources, Download Forms (http://www.nationalacademicleague.org/forms_new.html), or request forms from the National Office (770-998-7833 or office@nationalacademicleague.org). Please mail or fax your completed forms to the address/fax below:

National Academic League®
1445 Lakemist Court
Roswell, GA 30075
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Ongoing Requests:

1. Send us links to your district or state curriculum, along with links to any practice tests. We will use this information to update the NAL® Question Bank®. We would also like a list of literature your students are reading.
2. Please send copies or links to any press coverage your NAL® league receives. If possible, send the original newsprint, along with the publication banner with the date.
3. We love testimonials! If you or someone you know has had a good experience, been enriched or benefited by their participation in the NAL® please email us your comments at office@nationalacademicleague.org.

National Academic League® Trademark Policy

This year, on the advice of our trademark attorney, we are forced to require all NAL® Commissioners to sign the *Terrel H. Bell & Associates® Trademark Policy*. Signing this indicates that you understand and agree to comply with the policy, which applies to any items with the words *National Academic League®* or *NAL®* or *Terrel H. Bell®* or the *NAL® logo*. League Commissioners are also responsible for communicating this policy to principals, coaches and any other relevant parties. Using these terms or logo without written permission from Terrel H. Bell® & Associates is a violation of the United States Trademark and Patent Federal Law.

Please understand that enforcing the federal trademarks serves a number of functions. First, it protects the integrity of the program. Without trademark protection, anyone can take the name and goodwill, which we have all worked hard to build since 1991, and use it for any purpose. Second, if vendors are allowed to reproduce the names or logos without our permission, we are not legally protecting the trademarks, so we can lose the trademark. Third, Terrel H. Bell & Associates® depends on sales of materials and memorabilia to support the program. Unauthorized use of materials is not only a violation of *U. S. Patent and Trademark* law, but it also reduces resources available to develop and continue the National Academic League®.

For the past seven years, we have asked everyone to be on the honor system. However, it has come to our attention that some leagues have used the “Registered Marks” to make their own items such as t-shirts, trophies, and awards. You should understand that you are putting local vendors in jeopardy whenever they are asked to use an unauthorized Registered Trademark. The vendors are breaking federal law and putting their business license at risk. If you already have items that were not produced by *Terrel H. Bell & Associates®*, do not use them. If you have not already signed and returned a copy of the Trademark Policy, please do so as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation.

“TAKE 5” Election Questions

Test your knowledge and practice your question answering skills with our “Take 5” questions about the 2008 election. Answers on Page 4.

Q: Identify the last state to finalize election results in the 2008 Presidential election.

Q: State the total number of electoral votes in the US Electoral College.

Q: Explain why the outcome of 2008 Presidential election was bound to be historic whether the Democratic or Republican ticket won.

Q: Name the states that the Democratic and Republican presidential and vice-presidential candidates were serving at the time of the election (Barack Obama, Joe Biden, John McCain, Sarah Palin).

Q: State the date when President-Elect Barack Obama will be inaugurated.

Tell Us How We Did...

At last May's National Conference, our participants gave us a to-do list of improvements they wanted from the National Office. Let us know what you think about how we addressed the following action items:



- Make more practice questions available, including 3rd quarter topics. *A Practice Game is now available, with 35 1st Quarter, 25 2nd Quarter, 1 3rd Quarter and 40 4th Quarter questions. A sample 3rd Quarter question is in the Study Book, along with suggestions for developing your own practice 3rd Quarter topics.*
- Restructure the Study Book to make it more user-friendly. *This year's study book includes many additions and improvements, including scoring strategies, sample 3rd Quarter Question, easy-to-use summary tables, and a more user-friendly format for Study Topics.*
- Include a wider variety of NAL® awards at different price levels; provide pictures of choices. *We have added several new items to our Awards, offering 6 different trophy options and 5 different plaque options, as well as medals and certificates. See our product information at the back of the Rules & Guidelines and Study Book. Check on-line: award pictures and on-line ordering will be available soon.*
- Create a 'job description' for NAL® commissioners and a National Tournament checklist. *In the NAL® Rules & Guidelines, behind the Participants tab, under League Commissioner, is a list of 'job requirements' including time, authority, budget and support (page 1). Also in the Rules & Guidelines book, behind the National Championship Tournament tab, is a checklist entitled Steps to Help League Commissioners Prepare for the National Tournament (page 38).*

Let us know how you like the changes we've made. We're still working on a few of your suggestions — we'll keep you posted on our progress.

NAL® RULE CHANGES FOR 2008-2009

The following is a synopsis of the Rule Changes that were proposed, voted on, and adopted at the conclusion of the 2007-2008 season.

Proposed Rule Change # 1 Fairness of scoring of 3rd Quarter presentations.

Suggestion:

- Allow scorekeepers to keep 3rd quarter scoresheets until both teams have completed their presentations.
- Allow (not require) judges to confer prior to final scoring of 3rd quarter presentations.

Rationale: If Officials can confer with one another, the fairness of scoring will improve because they can share insights about each area.

Relevant Rules & Guidelines page*: 25, *Third Quarter Scoresheet, item 4*

ADOPTED

Proposed Rule Change #2 –Eliminate 3rd Quarter Scoresheet A

Suggestion: Eliminate the use of the format 'Scoresheet A' for 3rd quarter scoring throughout the league.

Rationale: This format is no longer used, therefore it should be taken out of circulation.

Relevant Rules & Guidelines page*: 59, *Appendix F: Scoresheet*

Samples

ADOPTED

Proposed Rule Change #4 - Timely reporting of NT scores, High Scorers, & 3rd Qtr. Feedback.

Relevant Rules & Guidelines page: 43, *Reporting Results*

Suggestion: Within 24 hours of a National Tournament Game, the commissioner or his/her designate will fax the following to the National

Office:

- Summary scoresheet including final scores
- Names & point of game high-scorers
- 3rd quarter scoresheets, including comments (required)

Rationale:

This procedure will insure the timely reporting of scores, which will allow the National Office to promptly update information on games scores, brackets, and high-scorers. Additionally, 3rd quarter scoresheets will be shared with opposing team. This allows the 3rd quarter teams to benefit from the comments & observations of the judges regarding their presentations.

Relevant Rules & Guidelines page*: 47, *Reporting Results*

ADOPTED

*Page references are for 2008-2009 Rules & Guidelines book

National Academic League®

Unfolding the Future of America's Children

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www.nationalacademicleague.org

A Message from the National Commissioner

Welcome back to another exciting NAL® season. We think you will like the changes we've made to our materials this year, and would love to hear from you.

We particularly appreciate your attention to and compliance with the NAL® Trademark Policy. This is a key part of keeping the National Academic League healthy and growing.

This year we'd like to encourage you to show your NAL® pride by displaying our new NAL® car magnet on your cars. Now all our Academic Athletes can have equal representation on car bumpers! HONK if you support the NAL®!!



Donna L. Elmquist
President
Terrel H. Bell & Associates®

To order your magnet, contact our office or go to our website,

www.nationalacademicleague.org

Price is \$5.00 plus shipping & handling

Ask us about volume discounts

"TAKE 5" Answers

The following are the answers to the Take 5 Questions on Page 2.

A: Missouri

A: 538 electors

A: If the Democrats won, it would be the first time an African-American was elected president; if the Republicans won, it would be the first time a woman was elected vice-president.

A: Barack Obama—Illinois; Joe Biden—Delaware; John McCain—Arizona; Sarah Palin—Alaska

A: January 20, 2009 (Inauguration Day)

2008-2009 NAL® Calendar

Mark your calendars with these important dates in the 2008-2009 NAL® season.

NAL® Season of Play— October 15, 2008 through February 27, 2009

League Champions Determined—
February 27, 2009

Terrel H. Bell® National Tournament for Academic Excellence—March 2, 2009 through April 24, 2009

National Conference—May 1-3, 2009
Atlanta, Georgia