π Quiz Rules

Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association

Regional Round

1. Pi Quiz is an inter schools mathematics quiz organized by the IMTA. This competition is for teams of up to four students (max of Junior Cycle year) from second level schools, as defined by the Department of Education and Science. Questions will be based on the Junior Cycle Higher Level Mathematics specification. It will be held close to International Pi Day (March 14th) each year. The exact date will be determined by the IMTA Council of the day.

2. A school may enter up to **four** teams.

3. Six Minutes will be allowed for each round [Countdown Clock]. The contest will have eight rounds. The first six rounds will have two questions each, followed by two rounds of four questions each. There may also be a tie break round.

4. Question papers will be distributed, face downwards, on the tables and must not be looked at until the instruction is given to "start".

5. Answer papers must be surrendered immediately and placed face-downwards for collection at the final signal for the round (i.e. answers must be written before the final signal). A warning signal will be given one minute before the final signal.

6. Each correctly answered question will be awarded one mark (Hit or Miss). No marks for incorrect, incomplete, ambiguous, or answers not in the specified format. Teachers should remind students that no marks will be awarded for correct answers written in an incorrect order. Accuracy is important.

7. Students may only use paper and the Formula & Tables Book issued by the State Examinations Commission. The blue or red cover books are allowed.

8. Calculators, as specified by the State Examinations Commission for the Junior Cycle programme, may be used.

9. If two or more teams are tied for first or second place after the eight rounds, there will be a further 6 minute tie break round for the teams involved. In this round, teams may submit their answer papers **before** the final signal. If two or more teams are still tied on their scores after this round, then the tying team which submitted its answer paper first will be deemed to have won, and so on. Zero scores may not constitute winning that round. (Note however that the score is the primary criterion). Should the tie still remain after this procedure, then the adjudicator, at his or her discretion, will determine how the matter is to be resolved. Only team rank order, and not tiebreak round scores, will be announced after the tiebreak.

10. By taking part in this competition, teams will be deemed to have accepted the rules. A breach of any of these rules may merit disqualification from the competition.

11. Each regional centre will appoint an adjudicator. The decision of the appointed adjudicator will be final.

π Quiz Rules

Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association

12. Each participating school must have at least one teacher with the students on the day of the quiz. Teachers will be required to correct answer sheets, distribute and college question and answer sheets, actively supervise, help with clean-up of centre, help to distribute any refreshments that may be required.

13. Only teachers may correct answer sheets and operate the excel scoresheet.

14. Only host teachers can see the questions in advance of the quiz. This includes photocopying and/or arranging bundles of questions for the day of the quiz. Under no circumstances should students be entrusted with any of this.

15. Schools must be paid members of the IMTA to compete in competitions or have at least one teacher who is a paid member of the IMTA.

16. Host centres are, in essence, representatives of the IMTA on the day of the quiz and agree to act in an impartial and fair manner for all participating schools.

National Final

17. The number of schools who qualify for the national final will be determined by the size of the venue for the final.

18. At a minimum, every regional centre will have 1 team qualify for the final. Depending on space available in national final venue, additional schools may be invited depending on their scores at the regional event. This decision is at the discretion of the national council of the day.

19. The format of the National Final is exactly the same as the regional event (i.e. rules 3-9).

20. Any team that takes part in the National Final must be comprised of members from the same school who competed in the regional competition. Substitution / replacement of team members is allowed, and a team can take part in the National Final with less than the original number of members. All teams contesting the final are subject to validation checks by the IMTA.

21. At least 3 schools must have been represented at the Regional / Branch competition, for the winners to qualify for the National Final.

The IMTA National Council has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of π Quiz.

Updated 25th April 2026