



**READING
OLYMPICS**



PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

*A cooperative project of the Montgomery County, Bucks County, Chester
and Delaware Intermediate Units and Public Libraries*

Updated October 2017

Philosophy

The goal of the Reading Olympics is to promote students' reading for enjoyment, develop reading skills and thereby increase reading achievement. Students collaborate with their teammates to read forty to fifty books that have been selected by a committee of librarians, reading specialists and classroom teachers. These professionals read the books and write questions which teams of students answer during the event. The Reading Olympics are primarily a celebration of reading rather than a contest. All participants are awarded ribbons. Since the teams generate much excitement about this reading event, the experience is rewarding for everyone involved.

For students who may not participate in other team activities, the program facilitates team skills such as:

- the ability to communicate
- the ability to work co-operatively
- exercise leadership skills
- the ability to listen
- being willing to do their share of tasks
- the ability to solve problems and work towards a common goal

MCIU Point-of-Contacts

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- **Event Levels:** There are three (3) event levels.

Level	Grades
Elementary	4, 5, 6*
Middle/Junior High	6, 7, 8, 9 ⁺
High School	9, 10, 11, 12
*6 th grade teams can go to either an elementary or middle school event.	
+ 9 th grade teams can go to either a middle school or high school event.	

- **Book Lists:** Each event level has a list that consists of 45 assigned books. Books are selected by a committee of teacher and librarian volunteers from Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery County districts to reflect local curriculum. They are a mix of genres, leisure and required reading, classics and popular titles. Each team should ensure that every book has been read by at least one student, as there will be questions for every book on the list.
 - Schools have the option to have their teams “skip” books if they are deemed inconsistent with a particular school's philosophy or beliefs. However, it is important to note that teams will still be asked questions related to these books.
- **Format of Evening:** There will be three (3) rounds during the evening. Each round will be approximately 40 minutes in length. During each round, there will be two teams assigned to play each other. Due to each event having teams from up to 4 grade levels, it is likely that teams in the same room will be from different grade levels. As an example, it is entirely possible that a 4th grade team could play a 6th grade team.
- **Teams:** Elementary, middle and high schools are welcome to form as many teams as they would like. Teams of mixed age, gender and reading ability are encouraged. Schools are responsible for dedicating teachers to prepare the teams for the event and also to perform key roles on the night of the event.
 - Teams consist of six (6) to fourteen (14) students. However, no more than 12 students may participate in a round.
 - Any team with more than 12 students would need to have some students sit out one round. All team members should participate in at least two rounds.
- **Questions and Scoring:** Each round will consist of 40 questions, with each team getting 20 questions to answer. Teams will be read each question two times and have up to 20 seconds to provide a response.
 - Each correct answer will earn a team one point. No points are deducted for incorrect answers. A team will earn a final score based on total number of points earned throughout the evening. Ribbons are awarded to all participants according to the team's score for all three rounds.
- **Location Assignment:** Every effort is made to assign schools to their first preference of location, however some event sites are capped to ensure a safe and successful program. A second location must be selected when registering. Location requests are granted first registered, first served.

- **Spectators:** Parents may attend the event as spectators. Spectators may not interfere in the questioning or scoring processes. It is kindly requested that small children not attend this event.
- **Teacher Volunteers (per team, NOT school):** Each team must provide two teachers to serve as volunteers:
 - One teacher will serve as a **team leader** and accompanies the team and is responsible for supervising the team throughout the evening as the team leader. The responsibilities of team leaders include:
 - Arriving with the team and remaining with the team throughout the entire event
 - Travel with the team from contest room to contest room, ensuring that the team follows the event rules.
 - At the conclusion of each round, team leaders receive the team score card from the scorekeeper and deliver it to the scorekeeper in the subsequent round.
 - Hold participants in the contest room until the announcement to move to the next round is made. Team leaders may accompany small groups of students to the water fountains or restrooms.
 - Assist in maintaining order in the hallways between rounds.
 - At the conclusion of the third round, team leaders assist team members and spectators in returning the contest room to its original condition as directed by the moderator.
 - When teams are made up of more than twelve (12) members, team leaders supervise the composition of the team, rotating students in and out of each round. All team members should participate in at least two rounds. No team member should sit out more than one round. No more than 12 students may participate during each round, and the composition of the team may not change after each round has begun.
 - The second teacher will be assigned to work as a **moderator or scorekeeper** for the entire event. This teacher will not see teams from his/her school during the event. Specific directions for moderating and scorekeeping can be found on the MCIU Reading Olympics' website.
- **Weather Cancellations:** The event will not be held if the host district is closed on the day of the event due to inclement weather. If an event is cancelled, building contacts will be emailed and information will be posted on the MCIU Reading Olympics' website. If the event is canceled, there will be no make-up date due to the complexity of scheduling and volunteer availability.
- **Host Sites:** Schools are generous in granting use of their buildings. Every effort must be made to return classrooms to their original layout and to properly dispose of all trash following the event. Adult volunteers are responsible for reporting any damage to the room, accidental or otherwise. Please inform the event coordinator in charge of that evening's event prior to leaving the host school.