

NCSLMA Guidelines for Participation in Battle of the Books

Eligibility Requirements for Participation

All guidelines must be met to participate in the Battle of the Books program. The participants must be:

1. A public, charter, or independent school recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the current year of participation.
 - Charter schools will be treated as a separate school system within their respective regions. All participating charter schools within each Region (1- 8) will compete with each other to determine the charter school representative at their appropriate regional competition. **If there is only one charter school within a region, the charter school automatically advances to regionals.**
 - Independent schools will compete in Region 9.
 - **Homeschooled students do not meet the requirements to participate in competitions.**
2. A school with a media center that:
 - Is open and staffed a minimum of 20 hours per week by a certified school Library Media Coordinator or other certified staff serving in the role of media coordinator at the school.
 - Has a catalogued collection of information resources.
 - Is in a designated space on the site of the school.
 - **Exception** – Early and Middle Colleges that operate within a college campus AND students have access to the college or university library space and collection are exempt from this rule with committee approval.
3. **School Library Media Coordinator, or other certified staff must serve as the head coach and directly supervise and administer the Battle of the Books team, and be an NCSLMA member.**

General Requirements

1. All those participating must be a full-time student attending a public or independent school for which they are enrolled for the current school year.

Elementary School: 4-5 grades (K-6 schools may use 4, 5, and 6)
Middle School: 6-8 grades
High School: 9-12 grades
2. **Each team must have a Battle of the Books (BOB) coach who is a certified School Library Media Coordinator or other certified staff**
3. Each school system may send only one team to the regional competition and each region may send only one team to the state competition.

4. Teams must not exceed the maximum number of 12 members. There is no minimum number. No substitutions will be accepted once the team roster has been submitted to the Regional Coordinator. **Any other students must be sitting with the audience without team apparel.**
5. The BOB Committee has the authority to refuse to allow a team to participate in the event of unsportsmanlike behavior or other extenuating circumstances.
6. In the event of a situation that is not specifically addressed in the BOB rules, the judge's decision is final. At competitions, teams may wear BOB team or school shirts; however, shirts **MUST NOT** display the titles or authors of books, or quotes from books on the current BOB booklist. **Only competing team members, head coach and one assistant are permitted to wear team shirts at competitions.**
7. Teams are representing their schools and districts and should follow their school dress codes.