

United States Academic Decathlon®
2024 USAD Nationals
Student Code of Conduct and Dress Code

Student Code of Conduct

The United States Academic Decathlon expects all team members to conduct themselves with decorum while attending Academic Decathlon events. This includes travel, time on hotel premises, and any sightseeing associated with students' participation in the 2024 USAD Nationals, and all related events in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Appropriate conduct of team members is the sole responsibility of the team coach who has legal responsibility as the chaperone for team members at all times. Students should be under the supervision of the coach during the entire competition. All students are expected to be in their rooms by 10 p.m. (unless participating in a scheduled event). If behavior in common areas of the hotel is disruptive, an earlier curfew may be imposed either by USAD or the hotel management. It is the responsibility of the team coach to be available and to enforce such a curfew and any other regulations determined necessary by USAD officials.

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is NOT limited to:

- 1. Cheating**
- 2. Being in possession of any cell phone, electronic devices, study materials, etc., in the competition testing areas, including speech and interview and Super Quiz™**
3. Being in possession of any weapon
4. Damage to, or vandalism of, any property including hotel rooms and competition sites, stealing
5. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs by students, regardless of age
6. Use of water pistols, water balloons or any other projectile at the hotel or competition site
7. Fighting, loud noise, or any other behavior that is disruptive to others at the hotel or competition site
8. Disrespect to the competition, competition officials, proctors or coaches

Financial liability for all damage incurred by actions of a team member shall be the sole responsibility of that team member and his/her parents. Failure to comply with the Student Code of Conduct may result in disqualification from the event, the entire competition and the awards ceremony. The decision of the USAD administration is final.

Teams should be aware that failure of any team member to adhere to these policies and procedures may result in disqualification of the delinquent student and/or the entire team. Furthermore, cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Any act of cheating will be promptly brought to the USAD officials for review, evaluation and imposition of possible sanctions. If someone is proven to have cheated, it is within USAD's power to disqualify not only the person caught cheating, but also the entire team.

Decathletes that violate the Student Code of Conduct run the risk of being eliminated from the national competition.

Dress Code

All participants are expected to dress neatly while participating in the competition. As representatives of their respective schools, students should dress comfortably within limits: ***Team shirts and/or uniforms for teams are encouraged.***

Arena/objective testing & Super Quiz™

Although casual attire is permissible during testing, distracting apparel, including hats of any kind, sunglasses, jackets, hooded clothing or other baggy-style sweatshirts and/or pants, cargo pants, torn jeans, or overalls shall be considered inappropriate and not acceptable in the testing arena. Hoodies are not permitted in the testing area and will be confiscated. Please dress accordingly.

Speech and Interview

Appropriate attire could include but is not limited to; a blazer, sport coat or sweater with collared dress shirt and necktie; or business suit with collared dress shirt and necktie. A blouse and/or sweater; jacket with dress blouse; business suit with dress blouse; or business dress.

Distracting apparel, including hats/caps of any kind, shall be considered inappropriate. If violations of the dress code are observed by a proctor or USAD officials, the student will be given the opportunity to comply with dress standards prior to the event. Once a student has been allowed to compete in an event, they may NOT be disqualified based on dress code violations.

Failure to comply with the dress code may result in disqualification from the event, the entire competition and the awards ceremony. The decision of the USAD administration is final.