

United States Academic Decathlon®

2025 USAD Nationals

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 2025 USAD Nationals, and all related events in Des Moines, Iowa.

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 competition hotels is disruptive, an earlier curfew may be imposed either by USAD or hotel management. It is the responsibility of the team coach 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 device, study materials, etc., in the competition testing areas, including speech, 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
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 hotels or competition site
7. Fighting, loud noise, or any other behavior that is disruptive to others at the hotels 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 their parents. Failure to comply with the Student Code of Conduct may result in disqualification from the event, the entire competition, and/or 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 the entire team.

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

Dress Code

As representatives of the United States Academic Decathlon, their respective states, and their high schools, coaches and decathletes are expected to maintain a positive and professional appearance during all Academic Decathlon-related events. Inappropriate attire may result in disqualification from competition or exclusion from awards ceremonies.

General Guidelines:

The dress code aims to create a fair and distraction-free environment for all participants. Attire must be neat, clean, and conducive to focused competition. USAD Officials have been trained and have the authority to address violations. If a violation occurs, the decathlete will be given an opportunity to correct it. Failure to comply may result in missing a scheduled test or, in severe cases, disqualification. Decathletes with medical, religious, or accessibility needs requiring exceptions should notify their team coach in advance to request approval from the USAD Officials with their registration for the national competition. Students with exceptions will be provided with a designation on their name badge/lanyard for the competition. Test proctors will be trained to apply the policy consistently and objectively, addressing violations discreetly and providing opportunities for correction. Concise guidelines are listed below and will be provided to all participants ahead of the competition, with opportunities for questions and clarification.

Objective Testing and Super Quiz

- **Acceptable Attire:**

For objective testing and Super Quiz, decathletes may wear casual attire or clothing that represents their school or team. Attire may incorporate the current Academic Decathlon theme but must not include any content that could provide an unfair advantage during testing (e.g. maps, art specific to the year's curriculum, math formulas, etc.), such as maps with locations, math formulas, art related to the art curriculum, or information directly related to potential test questions. Attire should reflect positively on the individual, their school, and the Academic Decathlon program. Hoodies and sweatshirts are permitted, but the hood must remain down and turned inside out. Cardigans and windbreakers are also permitted, but coats are not allowed in the testing area.

- **Inappropriate Attire:**

Unacceptable attire includes clothing that conceals the face or head (e.g. hats, sunglasses, etc.) with the exception of religious headwear (e.g. hijab, yarmulke, dastar, etc.). Garments with excessive rips or holes that expose undergarments, clothing with distracting graphics or messages, and any attire that may be considered offensive or vulgar are also deemed inappropriate.

Speech and Interview

For Speech and Interview events, decathletes are encouraged to dress in business professional or business casual attire. Attire should not include any reference to their team or school and should not include uniforms or costumes.

Appropriate attire may include, but is not limited to, a business suit (pants or skirt) with a dress shirt or blouse and necktie, a blazer, sport coat, or jacket with a dress shirt/blouse and pants/skirt, or a business dress.