

**U.S. Academic Pentathlon®**  
**Nationals - May 14-16, 2026**  
**General Rules**

The United States Academic Pentathlon Nationals is held under the auspices of the USAD Board of Directors. All testing, judging, scoring, and any other function of the competition are managed by USAD. This year's event is being hosted by the United States Academic Decathlon in conjunction with a host of volunteers from Nashville, TN.

*Identification*

All participants must display their USAP IDs during each test and at each competition event. **ID badges must be worn to all competitive events and must be plainly visible to the proctors to verify each participant's identity.** All pertinent test materials, including answer forms/clickers, pertaining to an individual participant will be pre-coded. Prior to each test session, participants must complete the cover sheet of each test, which includes their name, competition ID number, signature, and date in order for the test to be acceptable for scoring.

*Testing Area*

**Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in the testing area (including ALL online testing).** Contestants will NOT be excused from the testing room (including Super Quiz™) for any reason before the scheduled break. If a student leaves a testing room or event, they/them will NOT be permitted to return until the next scheduled break at the conclusion of the subject area tests. Any participant who has a medical condition which requires special provisions of any kind must provide USAP with written documentation from a physician in advance of the competition. The decision to allow a medical exception is at the discretion of USAP and is final.

*Super Quiz (on site only)*

This event is held before a large audience; therefore, spectators are asked to be as quiet as possible while the questions are being read in order to give each group of contestants an equal opportunity for hearing and responding. Participants are NOT permitted to bring books, notes, purses, backpacks, coats, hats, cell phones, electronic devices, or any other items to the team seating area or to the competition floor. Any such items will be confiscated by proctors. Mascots must remain in the team seating area and are NOT allowed on stage. Coaches are NOT allowed to sit with or communicate with their team members during the Super Quiz. Any team that does not adhere to the Super Quiz rules may be disqualified from the event. **Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in the Super Quiz competition area.**

*Tardiness*

Participants are responsible for being in the proper test location at the time each test begins. If a participant is tardy, they/them will NOT be allowed to enter the testing room. Contestants will NOT be allowed to enter the Super Quiz venue once the competition commences.

*Test Materials*

The proctor will supply all printed materials and writing utensils necessary for the written tests. Participants are NOT permitted to bring books, notes, purses, backpacks, coats, hats, mascots, electronic devices, cell phones, or any other items into the testing room. Any such items will be confiscated by the proctor and may result in the student receiving a zero for that particular session. The decision of USAP will

be final and irrevocable. Online students will need to have scratch paper and pencils available for the math portion of the exam.

### *Starting/Stopping*

If a proctor determines that a student has failed to stop when instructed to do so or has started before being instructed to do so, the student will receive a score of zero for that particular test. Online students will have their computers “locked down” at the end of the testing period.

### *Cheating*

If a proctor or competition official finds a contestant involved in using a cell phone in any competition area, using any unauthorized means of communication, using any type of crib, sharing, texting, storing, or transporting test information, the proctor must report the incident to the USAP official. If a participant is proven to have cheated, they/they will be disqualified from the event; moreover, depending on the severity of the infraction, the participant may be disqualified from the entire competition. Participants removed because of cheating or misconduct will NOT be eligible for any awards. Any person receiving or passing along any current year’s tests or test items, except for USAP published practice tests, will disqualify themselves and their team from Pentathlon participation. The decision of USAP will be final and irrevocable.

### *Withdrawal*

In the case of an emergency or illness, a participant must formally withdraw in order to be eligible for any awards. To formally withdraw, a participant must give a written explanation of their withdrawal to a proctor or Pentathlon official. An alternate student CANNOT be added to a team in the case of a withdrawal.

### *Test Scores*

Any scores announced during the competition are unofficial.

### *Team Selection*

The nine team members who attend the National Finals must be the same nine students who participated in and won the state competition. No substitutions are permitted. In the case of an extreme medical emergency occurring after the state competition, USAP and/or the State Director will determine if another student may replace the absent team member. Teams shall NOT consist of more than nine members. Teams may compete with fewer than nine members, but must have a minimum of six members—two in each grade point average category. To be eligible for competition, teams must file all required documents in accordance with the deadlines set by USAP.

### *Essay*

The essay event will take place online prior to the competition. The essay test will be held April 23, 2026, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Central Daylight time. You will need to reserve a computer lab at your school, library or other venue. An administrator (not the team coach) will need to oversee the online competition. All students **MUST** participate on this day. **Please contact your school’s IT department and make sure the following address is on the school’s “safe” list: <https://usad.enlyght.com>**

Each essay will be read by two judges. If the scores from the two judges differ by 200 points or more, the essay will then be read by a third reader. The divergent score will be tossed out, and the two closest scores will be averaged to determine the essay score.

*Calculator Policy*

Calculators are not allowed.

*Standards of Conduct*

Students and coaches are required to comply with the above competition rules and those stated in the *USAP Code of Student Conduct*. Failure to adhere to these rules may, at the discretion of USAP, result in the disqualification of the participant and/or their team. Students will uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity while participating in the Academic Pentathlon. If necessary, a student may be required to re-take an alternate test to validate their test results.