

HRRB Practice Bowl FAQ

How will we be notified to transition during the competition? “The transition from room to room took a long time. Communication should be very specific on when to move to a specific room and back to the team's waiting room.” HRRB Steering Committee will send announcements via Remind. Volunteers and Coaches will receive the link to access the competition’s Remind account.

Volunteers and Coaches are asked to sign up for Remind at <https://www.remind.com/join/>. Or you may join by text at 810-10 using the code given to you. For a tutorial about 810-10, go to https://youtu.be/DLP_QYSOj4.

What happens if a coach or student cannot access the chat? “We had kids who could not type in the chat. Another student typed in his code & number, but it never showed in the chat box.”

Truly, we hope that every team player is able to access the chat area. We have tested the chat area with participants that are within DCSD organization and with those that are not. Most participants are able to access the chat area and do not experience any technical issues. However, due to the variations in technology devices and Internet speed, we have not determined a solution for all technical issues related to the chat area. Our recommendation is that volunteers, coaches, and team players join the competition rooms using the Microsoft Teams app.

How should we handle response delays in the chat area? “The console judge sees a different order than everyone else when students buzz in.”

If there is a discrepancy, the Console Judge will ask the other volunteers to check their chat area and identify the team player that buzzed in first. A decision will be made based on the consensus of the volunteers.

Will time be allowed for a team player to rejoin the competition room if they lose connection? “I had one student who kept getting kicked out; unfortunately, he didn’t participate. He’s never had a problem in our practice session.”

Moderators have been instructed to allow each team one 2-minute game delay if technical issues arise. Coaches are responsible for reporting issues to the volunteers by posting a message in the chat area. The console judge will acknowledge the coach if additional information is needed.

How can I see all my players? “Not all devices show the ‘grid’ view. Some devices only show the 3x3 grid. Our technology teacher tried assisting with this, as well as IT; however, no luck.”

Understandably, we would like for everyone to view the gallery of participants. However, there are limitations based on virtual platform and technology device. In the future, we will consider other virtual platforms such as Zoom and Google Meet that may address this issue more efficiently.

Between rounds and during rounds, can we swap out players?

Team players can only be swapped out between rounds. In previous face-to-face reading bowls, no players can be swapped out during the round.

Can non-competing team members join the competition room to view the round?

Up to five alternate team players may join the round to view the competition. They must keep their cameras off, microphone muted, and cannot post in the chat area.

Are team players required to wear the name tags? “It was hard to read most of the tags and their names that were on them. I had them adjust their cameras so their tags were visible but during competition.”

Yes; team players # 1-5 must wear their name tag.

Have moderators been instructed to reduce distractions? “One of our moderators was in their car and appeared to be using their phone which led to jerky movements and lack of visibility.”

Moderators have been instructed to silence cell phones and reduce background video and audio distractions.

How are you addressing slow Wi-Fi? “Online HRRB can be laggy for people with bad Wi-Fi, causing an unfair advantage to others.”

HRRB Steering Committee has no control over home Wi-Fi and Internet speed.

What happens if there is a tie-breaker at the end of the competition?

Team scores will be tabulated throughout the reading bowl. At the end of the sixth round, coaches and team players will return to their team room and wait for the Remind announcement that will either dismiss all teams or announce the teams that are needed for a tie-breaker round.

When will the winners be announced?

The winners will be announced by email to coaches and posted on the HRRB website no later than 9:00 A.M. on Saturday morning. However, the results may be released sooner than that time.

Do all teams receive a trophy?

Trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners. These teams will compete in the HRRB Metro Regional competition on Saturday, February 20, 2021.