

## Rules for the Trivia Nationals 5x5 Individual Competition

"5x5" ("Five By Five") is a game that will be played as an individual competition at Trivia Nationals. All registrants may play 3 preliminary games. If you want to play, you need to pre-register for the event.

**Main game:** Each player starts with 500 points.

A game board with 5 categories, each with 5 questions is presented. Questions are valued from 100 to 400 points, and the bottom clue of each category labeled a "Double Up". The Double Up is an opportunity to double a player's score on a single question.

When selecting a category, the lowest-valued clue available will be played. A player can buzz-in after the question has been read in its entirety. The black border around the board will turn red, and at that point, players are allowed to buzz in. If you buzz in too early, you will be locked out for a fifth of a second before you will be allowed to buzz in again.

A correct answer adds the value to your total. A wrong answer will deduct the value, but your score can't go below zero. If a wrong answer is given, the other players are allowed to buzz in.

The player who gave the last correct answer gets to choose the next category played.

Once the first four questions in a category have been played, the Double Up question is available to be selected. Each player can play a Double Up question just once per game. A Double Up question can only be selected by a player who hasn't used his or her Double Up, unless no other clues are available. When this occurs, the question is a tossup worth 500 points.

On a Double Up clue, the clue will be read in its entirety. The player then has 10 seconds to either give an answer or pass the question. A correct answer doubles the player's score. If a wrong answer is given, the player's score goes to zero. If the question is passed or time runs out without an answer given, the player's score stays the same. If the original player gives a wrong answer or passes the question, the other players can buzz-in to earn or lose 500 points.

If a player has less than 50 points at the end of this round, the player's score will change to 50 points.

**Five By Final:** A question will be presented with at least five correct answers. Players will have one minute to write down as many as 5 answers on a white board. If

more than 5 answers are written, only the first 5 answers that aren't crossed out will be considered.

On a second white board, the players will then be given 10 seconds to write down a bid (from 0 to 5) of how many correct answers he or she thinks they've written.

If a player's bid is equal to or less than the number of correct answers written, that player's score will be affected as follows:

- Bid of 0: The player's score does not change.
- Bid of 1: Half of the player's score going into this round is added to his or her score.
- Bid of 2, 3, 4 or 5: The player's score is multiplied by his or her bid.

If a player's bid is greater than the number of correct answers he or she has written, that player's score will be cut in half.

The player with the highest score at the end of this round is declared the winner.

**5x5 Tournament:** Each player who elects to participate in the 5x5 tournament will get to play three preliminary games in a single session. After the first game in a session is played, players will play the next 2 games against different players. See the Trivia Nationals schedule for start times.

The top 25 players, based on the following criteria, will advance to the playoffs.

Criteria 1: Number of wins.

Criteria 2: Number of ranking points.

Criteria 3: Total points scored in the games.

**Wins:** The player with the highest score at the end of the Five by Final round is awarded the win. In the event of a tie for the lead at the end of a game, all tied players are awarded a win.

**Ranking points:** At the end of each game, a player receives ranking points based on where he or she finished in that game.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: 10 ranking points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 8 ranking points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: 6 ranking points
- 4<sup>th</sup> place: 4 ranking points
- 5<sup>th</sup> place: 2 ranking points

In the event of any tie in score, the ranking points for those tied players are averaged. For example, if two

players tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place, the ranking points for that game would be distributed as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: 9 ranking points (10+8=18, 18/2=9)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place: 9 ranking points (10+8=18, 18/2=9)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: 6 ranking points
- 4<sup>th</sup> place: 4 ranking points
- 5<sup>th</sup> place: 2 ranking points

**Playoffs:** 25 players advance to the playoffs. Those players will be split into five groups of five. Each group will play a game with the winner advancing to the finals.

**Finals:** The 5 winners of the playoff games advance to the finals. The finals will consist of two separate games of 5x5. Each player's scores from the two games will be added together and these total scores will determine the winner.

**Tiebreakers:** In the event of a tie determining the 25<sup>th</sup> semi-finalist, a tie for the lead at the end of a playoff game, or any tie involving the top 3 players at the end of the finals, a tiebreaker will be played amongst those tied players.

The tiebreaker consists of a "Five By Final" round. The winner of the tiebreaker is the player who has the highest bid that is successfully met. If this results in a tie, or both players fail to meet his or her bid, then the player who has written the most correct answers is the winner of the tiebreaker. If this results in a tie, more tiebreaker rounds are played amongst those tied players until one person is the clear winner.

**What is a correct answer?** A player must start the answer before the first part of the times-up indicator sounds. If more than one answer is required, the player must start the final answer in the list before the times-up indicator sounds. Words or phrases such as "Um" or "I don't know" are not considered as answers, unless the phrase actually is the answer to the question. If a player stops an answer and changes it to a different answer, it is ruled correct if it is clear that the first answer was not completed, as long as the correct answer begins before time is up. If the player gives more than one answer and only one answer is required, only the first answer given is considered.

Unless otherwise stated in the question or required by the category, last names are usually sufficient when the answer is a name of a person. The host may ask for more information, to elicit first names or numbers. Players get 5 seconds after being prompted to give the required information. If first and last names are both given and either the first or last name is wrong, the answer is ruled incorrect. Nicknames are usually not

acceptable, unless the nickname is the answer to the question. If the answer is a character name, first names or last names are sufficient unless otherwise specified.

Quotations and titles must be exact. If an article (a, an or the) is added to or omitted from the beginning of an otherwise correct answer, the answer will be ruled correct. Also, if the words "Adventures of", "Ballad of" or "Show" or something similar are part of the title, those words do not have to be included in order for the answer to be ruled correct. If the answer is the title of a song, and the player gives correct lyrics surrounding the title and includes the correct title, the answer is ruled correct.

The host may ask a player to repeat a response to determine if s/he was correct. The host may also ask a player to spell a response to determine if s/he was correct. Conversely, if a player spells an answer to a question which does not ask for spelling, it will be considered correct, as long as s/he spells the answer correctly.

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