

# Blue Crab Bowl Coaching & Team Participation Policy



1. An official team consists of five players (1 captain, players 1-3, plus 1 alternate) and one coach. Guidelines for student eligibility are found in the rules for NOSB national competition.
  2. Each team must have a single, designated adult coach, the **Coach of Record**. The coach must be a teacher, official or designate of the team's school or an employee, official or designate of an education program that is sponsoring a team. The Coach of Record serves as the primary official contact for the team in all communications with the Blue Crab Bowl/National Ocean Sciences Bowl and accompanies the team to the Bowl. Coach responsibilities include:
    - a) Timely completion of all registration forms and response to BCB Coordinators requests for information regarding Bowl participation.
    - b) Preparation and supervision of team members (and non-team observers), including:
      - \* thorough review of all NOSB/BCB competition rules, BCB event guidelines and behavior expectations with the team
      - \* preparing the team through review sessions in ocean sciences content and competition skills practice
      - \* supervision of team members at all BCB-associated events and venues, assuring that students adhere to guidelines and expectations.
    - c) Highly ethical and sportsmanship standards, both in preparation of the team and in competition.
    - d) Compliance with policies of the team's affiliated school system or education program, the Blue Crab Bowl and its host sites, and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl.
  3. Changes in designated coach can be made only with the prior approval of the Blue Crab Bowl Coordinators. Any substitute coaches will be expected to meet the same eligibility criteria and carry out the same responsibilities as the original coach. Teams arriving on the day of competition without their designated Coach of Record will not be allowed to compete/forfeit their opportunity to compete.
  4. Faculty, staff and students from the Institutions sponsoring/hosting the Blue Crab Bowl are not eligible to serve as coaches, but may serve as scientific advisors to teams under the following circumstances:
    - a) Scientific advisors who work with individual teams can have no contact whatsoever in current or past years with question development and review or with game preparation or practice sessions for officials.
    - b) Scientific advisors are expected to demonstrate the highest ethical standards. Should they inadvertently be exposed to "insider" information of any kind (e.g. overhear discussion of questions, conversations about rules, or comments from officials about their perspective on policies and rulings), they are expected to withdraw as team scientific advisors.
    - c) Scientific advisors may not represent the team in communications with Bowl officials.
    - d) Faculty, staff and students who wish to work directly with students are encouraged to do so through equitably available student preparation activities sponsored or endorsed by the Blue Crab Bowl Coordinators.
    - f) Team scientific advisors are not eligible for any coaching-related awards.
2. Any exceptions to these policies must be approved in advance by the Blue Crab Bowl Coordinators. Failure to adhere to policy may result in immediate disqualification of the team from competition.