Important Update: Competition Observation Procedures for the 35th National Japan Bowl

Dear Teachers, Chaperones, and Adult Observers,

As we prepare for the 35th National Japan Bowl, we would like to share an update to our competition observation practices. These changes are intended to help ensure a fair and consistent experience for all participating schools while preserving the integrity of the National Japan Bowl for this year and future competitions.

Updated Procedures for the Preliminary Rounds

In previous years, teachers, chaperones, and adult observers who sat in on Preliminary Rounds have received **sample answer sheets**. These sample answer sheets were copies of the official answer sheets received and completed by the competing students. While sample answer sheets were originally intended to invite observers to follow along with the competition in an active way, they have also made it possible to record competition questions for use beyond the event.

To help ensure that all schools compete on a level playing field, **sample answer sheets will no longer be distributed to teachers, chaperones, and adult observers during the Preliminary Rounds.**

From this year forward, during the Preliminary Rounds and Answer Reviews, only materials provided by event staff for use during the competition may be out. Teachers, chaperones, and adult observers must keep all personal belongings stored on the floor and out of sight, including any writing materials. Watches, cellphones, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices must be turned off and securely stowed throughout the Preliminary Rounds and Answer Reviews, as well. Please also remember that copying, reproducing, or distributing competition questions or answers in any form, at any time, may be grounds for disqualification. All competition rules and procedures are outlined in detail in the Competition Guide.

Outside of Preliminary Rounds and Answer Reviews, attendees are welcome to take notes during other event activities, including the Opportunities in Japan Fair, cultural workshops, and the teacher networking session.

We recognize that this represents a change from previous years' procedures and that many teachers have used their notes to help students prepare for future competitions. We

appreciate your understanding as we work to maintain fairness and uphold the standards of the National Japan Bowl.

New Sample-Question Resources for Teachers and Students

We understand the value of having sample questions available to help students become familiar with the competition. To support teachers and students in their preparation, the Japan Bowl Council has compiled sample-question documents for Levels II, III, and IV. These resources include both Japanese language and non-language topics and introduce common question formats used in the competition.

The documents draw from a pool of actual past competition questions and are intended to help teachers and students become more comfortable with the types and formats of questions they may encounter. They will be made available on the National Japan Bowl website before the competition and will be maintained as living documents that JASWDC and the Japan Bowl Council may update and revise over time.

We hope these resources will be a useful addition to your classroom preparation and help students approach the competition with greater familiarity and confidence.

Thank you for your continued support of the National Japan Bowl and for helping us create a fair, engaging, and rewarding experience for all participating students. We look forward to welcoming you to the 35th National Japan Bowl!

Sincerely,

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