



CIVICS BOWL — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the structure of the tournament?

Season 3 of Civics Bowl is a ten-team, single-elimination bracketed academic tournament comprised of two play-in matches, a first round with four matches, a semifinal round with two matches, and a championship match.

How will each team's placement in the bracket be decided?

KSPS will host a live drawing via Zoom. Four teams will be selected, at random, to meet in the play-in round. The remaining teams will play their first game in round 1. Specifics on how to watch the drawing will be made available to each team in advance.

Where are the Civics Bowl matches recorded?

All matches are recorded in advance at the KSPS PBS studios located at 3911 S. Regal Street in Spokane.

On what dates will the Civics Bowl matches be recorded?

We will record the two play-in matches on Tuesday, March 12, and the four round 1 matches on March 18 and 20th. The two semi-final matches and the championship match will be recorded on Tuesday March 26.

How long does it take to record a match?

Two and a half hours will be allotted for each match, however KSPS anticipates each will take closer to 90-minutes to two-hours. Teams will be assigned specific time slots between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the dates listed above.

Why does it take so long to record a 30-minute program?

Before production begins, each team will be familiarized with the studio, the buzzer system, and the rules for each round. Also, production will pause between each round to hear any challenges, finalize scores, and prepare for the next round. Sometimes there will also be down time while the KSPS crew troubleshoots any technical challenges.

Can a team change its assigned recording time?

No. Teams must participate on the date and at the time assigned by KSPS. There are no exceptions, so please be sure to review the dates and times carefully in advance.

Who needs to be present during the recording?

The four primary team members, the alternate team member, and a coach must attend each of their team's recording sessions. All team members, including the alternate and coach, will appear on television.

Can a school change its team members during the televised competition?

No. The four team members who start the competition must continue for any additional matches. Alternates can only be swapped in or out in case of emergency. Teams are asked to provide as much advance warning as possible when deciding an alternate will replace a team member and must receive approval from KSPS before making any roster changes. The alternate then permanently replaces the team member for the duration of the competition.

Can a team challenge a judge's ruling?

Yes. Disputes or discrepancies should be voiced by the coach to the judges immediately following the end of the round in which the discrepancy occurred. Coaches may not interrupt a round while in play. Players may not approach the judges directly, and should instead discuss the discrepancy with their coach. If the dispute is determined to be valid by the judges, play stops between rounds and the discrepancy is addressed at the sole discretion of the KSPS production staff and judges.

What should the team wear for the televised competition?

Teams must wear a school sweatshirt, polo, t-shirt, or other school-branded clothing. If this provides a hardship or challenge for your team, please let the KSPS PBS staff know as soon as you can. KSPS is exploring sponsorship options to help provide t-shirts. Refrain from wearing pinstripes or other busy patterns like houndstooth, clothing with visible logos or brand names (except your school logo), or all-white shirts. Please do not include students' last names anywhere on the shirts. KSPS will provide a name placard (first names only) for each contestant.

Will teams be asked to provide additional elements for the broadcast?

Yes. KSPS asks each school to produce a 60-second video highlighting their school and three things that make it special. Schools are encouraged to involve their video production class/staff in the production of their video. KSPS will provide guidance and specific deadline information for the production of these videos. We will air these videos during the play-in and round 1 matches. Also, the host of Civics Bowl will ask each contestant a "get to know you" type question during each match.

Will there be a studio audience?

Yes, we encourage each team to invite students, teachers, administration, and family to watch the recording of their matches. The studio audience will be asked to follow a code of conduct to prevent interruptions and ensure fairness during game play.

Can our team attend the tapings for other matches?

No. Because of the limited size of the KSPS studio, only audience members invited by each team may watch their school's match.

Are there COVID protocols this season?

We do not anticipate any restrictions this season. However, should it become necessary, all team members, coaches, audience members, judges, volunteers, and staff working and/or attending the Civics Bowl recording sessions will be required to follow applicable COVID protocols. While face coverings are not required, they are supported for anyone who chooses to wear one.

Where can my family and friends watch Civics Bowl?

On KSPS PBS (channel 7) and livestreamed on [kspstv.org](https://www.kspstv.org). Civics Bowl will air Mondays at 7 p.m. starting on Monday, April 8 and concluding on Monday, June 3. Each episode will repeat on the following Sunday at 11 a.m.

Will the episodes be available online?

Yes. Episodes will be available on ksps.org/civics-bowl immediately following each television broadcast.

How can I watch the first season of Civics Bowl?

Teams participating in season 2 of Civics Bowl are encouraged to watch the matches from last season at ksps.org/civics-bowl to get a better idea of what to expect. Game play will be very similar, with a few minor changes made after feedback from the first season.

Who should coaches/teams contact if they have questions?

Please contact Cyndy Koures, Civics Bowl producer, at civicsbowl@ksps.org.