



Canadian Math Kangaroo Contest

Contest Procedures and Appeals Policy

The purpose of this policy is to regulate various situations that may arise during and after the contest.

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As an organization, our mission is to advance education by increasing the appreciation of mathematics for Canadian students in grades 1-12 by establishing and administering an annual mathematical contest in Canada. Our team of hundreds volunteers and contractors work tirelessly to manage our programs and ensure Canadian students have the best experience they possibly could. The health and safety of our volunteers and participants and their families is our number one priority.

The CMKC reserves the right not to give, or to vary, an award or level of certificate if there is reason to believe the participant did not write the contest under normal CMKC site supervision.

Language of participation

The test can be written in English or in French.

Use of calculators

Calculators are not permitted.

Eligibility for Awards

- A. Students may compete in only one school grade, which must be equal to or higher than their current school grade in mathematics. Proof of grade may be requested once a student is deemed eligible for an award.
- B. Students cannot receive awards for the same school grade more than once.
- C. Students must place in the top 60th percentile nationally to qualify for any awards.
- D. Names published on the website are at the discretion of CMKC.
- E. CMKC reserves the right to withhold awards if participation was not supervised or if there is evidence of misconduct or dishonesty.

Early / late sitting

In the interests of the integrity of the contest, under no circumstances may the contest be written before or after the scheduled date and site coordinators are instructed to keep the contest papers in a secure place before the scheduled contest time.

Writing more than one paper

Students should not write more than one paper. If more than one set of answers is recorded, only the lowest score will be ranked.

Visually impaired students

We aim for the contest to be available to all students who wish to participate. We have special arrangements for visually impaired students. Contact us if you need such accommodation. No other special accommodations will be permitted.

Extra time

If there is an unplanned distraction, such as power failure or noise disturbance, the CMKC site coordinator may make a professional judgement on granting students extra time.

Family members precautions

Site coordinators, or anyone who might be seen to have access to the contest papers are strongly advised to take special precautions if they have family members writing the CMKC, to ensure that they are, and are seen to be, at arm's length from the process in their site.

No refund policy

In order to keep the entry fee as low as possible, we cannot refund any entry fees once an event is in progress or preparation of event materials has started. This includes entry fees paid for students who for whatever reason do not end up sitting contests or training events. Registered students will be able to see and solve the contest problems at a later time, outside rankings.

Details

1. Definitions

- 1.1. *Contest official* is defined as a member, representative, employee or any other person authorized by CMKC to participate in the organization and the administration of the contest.
- 1.2. *Late arrival* is defined as arrival at the contest location after the scheduled time or after the contest instructions have been read.
- 1.3. *Unauthorised communication* is defined as an attempt by a contestant to obtain or provide any information from/to another contestant or from/to any external person or source by using verbal, written, electronic or any other means.
- 1.4. *Disruptive behaviour* is defined as an attempt to distract or disrupt the work of another contestant or contest official by any means.
- 1.5. *Unauthorized material* is defined to include any material, mechanical or electronic device, regardless of their content, lack thereof or their state of (in)operability, that could potentially allow a contestant to gain unfair advantage over other contestants.
- 1.6. *Supervised contest* is a contest where students are closely monitored by invigilators appointed by CMKC. The invigilators ensure that the rules are followed and the integrity of the process is maintained. Any other way of conducting the contest is considered unsupervised.

2. Parents and Participants Responsibilities

- 2.1. **Prior to the Contest:** families are responsible for
 - 2.1.1. Ensuring the accuracy of their information in the system, including their profile and their students' profiles. This includes verifying: email address and student information (names, school grades, school name, city, province, postal code, contest location, preferred language).
 - 2.1.2. Being aware of registration deadlines.
 - 2.1.3. Familiarizing themselves with the logistical details (location, building, room) provided in the participants' accounts at least one week before the contest day.
- 2.2. **After the contest and prior to the winners announcement:** Families are responsible for:
 - 2.2.1. Checking that all responses are correctly entered in the system. If any discrepancies are found, they must notify CMKC immediately.

3. Contest Day Procedures

3.1. Arrival

- 3.1.1. It is the contestant's responsibility to be present at the correct location and at the time the contest is scheduled. They need to plan time for check-in and arriving at the room before the contest starts.
- 3.1.2. At the discretion of the site coordinators, *late arrival* (see Definitions) may cause such a contestant to be denied participation. Contestants arriving after the ending time for their level will always be denied participation.
- 3.1.3. Parents are not allowed to stay in the premises while contestants are writing. They may be allowed to walk their children to the test room but they must leave the room before the test starts.

3.2. Response forms

- 3.2.1. No changes to the response form can be made after it has been submitted to the contest invigilator. It is the contestant's responsibility to ensure that all the required identification information and the question answers are recorded in the form prior to its submission.
- 3.2.2. Once the response form has been submitted, the participation in the contest has ended for the contestant, and they can no longer continue regardless of the amount of time left until the end of the contest.
- 3.2.3. It is a timed contest. Contestants who fail to submit their response form upon announcement by the invigilator that the time is up will be deemed not to have participated in the contest.
- 3.2.4. The participant's responses will be entered online exactly as they appear in the paper response form. The marking system will mark the response as wrong if more than one choices are circled.
- 3.2.5. Students should not write more than one paper. If more than one response form (set of answers) is found, only the lowest score will be ranked.
- 3.2.6. In case of a misprint or a missing question in the test papers due to which the question cannot be solved, the participants are advised not to answer the question. If a misprint affected more than 50% of the participants in that grade level nationwide, the question will not be graded.

3.3. Contest time

- 3.3.1. **Duration:** The minimum time contestants spend in the test room is:
10 min for reading the instructions +
the time for writing depending on the level +
10 min for handing response forms and certificates for participation.
- 3.3.2. **Leaving the room:** Contestants are not allowed to leave the room before the contest end time unless parents request it ahead of time or if there is an unforeseen situation such as a fire alarm or a medical emergency.
- 3.3.3. **No communication:** Contestants are not allowed to communicate between each other during the contest. Attempt to engage in *unauthorised communication* (see Definitions) may cause the contestant to be dismissed from the contest room. Such a contestant is deemed not to have participated in the contest.
- 3.3.4. **Discipline:** Contestants are expected to observe personal discipline during the contest. Attempt to engage in *disruptive behaviour* (see Definitions) may cause the contestant to be dismissed from the contest room. Such a contestant is deemed not to have participated in the contest.
- 3.3.5. **Participating time and location:** Under no circumstance will a contestant be allowed to participate in the contest at a time and/or location different from the time and location announced for the region/city of the contestant's registration. No contestant will be allowed to participate in the contest remotely, via Internet or in any other way other than appearing in person at the contest location(s) for their region/city of registration.
- 3.3.6. **Family members precautions:** Site coordinators, or anyone who might be seen to have access to the contest papers are strongly advised to take special precautions if they have family members writing the CMKC, to ensure that they are, and are seen to be, at arm's length from the process in their site.

3.4. Special accommodations and aids

- 3.4.1. **Grade 1 participation:** Problems are selected according to the cognitive abilities of an average grade 1 student; however, we acknowledge that each child is different. In addition, there is a certain degree of challenge and stress generally associated with competitions. We will try to accommodate our youngest participants as much as possible during the competition. Our volunteer supervisors will be around to support them and provide guidance, as much as the rules of the contest allow. We may not be able, however, to accommodate every student's needs. In particular, there will be no reading aloud of the questions to the students. They are expected to have acquired an ability to read a simple text of 1-2 sentences on their own at the time of the competition. We suggest that parents take these notes into consideration before registering a grade 1 participant. We leave up to their judgement to decide whether their child is ready to cope with the challenge and still enjoy the experience.

- 3.4.2. Visually impaired students:** We aim the contest to be available to all students who wish to participate. We have special arrangements for visually impaired students. Contact us if you need such accommodation. No other special accommodations will be permitted.
- 3.4.3. Extra time:** If there is an unplanned distraction, such as power failure or noise disturbance, the CMKC site coordinator may make a professional judgement on granting students extra time.
- 3.4.4. Aids:** No external materials of any kind are permitted for use by the contestants. The contest package will include an adequate amount of paper, pen(cil)s and erasers. Possession of *unauthorized materials* (see Definitions) of any kind that are not included in the contest package, regardless of their content or lack thereof is a cause for contestant's dismissal. Such a contestant is deemed not to have participated in the contest.

4. Appeals

- 4.1.** Contestants who arrive at the contest location late (see Definitions) and are denied participation by a contest official cannot appeal such a decision. The contest official's decision is final.
- 4.2.** Contestants who are dismissed by a contest official during the contest for *unauthorised communication* (see Definitions) cannot appeal their dismissal. The contest official's decision is final.
- 4.3.** Contestants who are dismissed by a contest official during the contest for *disruptive behaviour* (see Definitions) cannot appeal their dismissal. The contest official's decision is final.
- 4.4.** Contestants who are dismissed by a contest official for *possession of unauthorized materials* (see Definitions) cannot appeal their dismissal. The contest official's decision is final.
- 4.5.** Contestants cannot appeal based on the fact that they have (supposedly) solved (correctly) a question if the answer is not recorded in their response form. Similarly, contestants cannot appeal based on different intent on answering a question. The response(s) recorded in the response form are the ones that stand and will be scored.
- 4.6.** It should be recognized that mathematics is a creative and intelligent activity. There is always going to exist a room for interpretation of the natural language. Moreover, interpretation of the language of the question is very often the key to solving the problem presented. Thus, existence of a possible alternative interpretation does not entitle those who gave a wrong answer to redress. In all such cases the prevailing interpretation will be the one given by the CMKC when composing the test papers.
- 4.7.** No appeals based on the premise that the student answered or did not answer any particular question in any particular way acting on external advice (i.e. by a contest official) will be honoured. The only procedure that should be followed by the student in answering questions is the one outlined in the printed instructions that are given to the student as part of the contest package and read before the start of the contest.
- 4.8.** Participants must ensure their responses are in the system before the appeal process ends and winners are announced. Once the appeal process closes and the winners are published, no additional responses can be added, and results cannot be altered. Please verify that your responses are correctly entered before CMKC publishes the winners list, as no awards will be given afterward.

5. Others

- 5.1. No refund policy:** In order to keep the entry fee as low as possible, we cannot refund any entry fees once an event is in progress or preparation of event materials has started. This includes entry fees paid for students who for whatever reason do not end up sitting contests or training events. Registered students will be able to see and solve the contest problems at a later time, outside rankings.
- 5.2.** Any breach of procedure on part of a contestant may be subject to further penalties or restrictions of this contestant's participation in future contests organized by CMKC.

Related documents

[CMKC Contest General Rules and Scoring](#); [Rules for CMKC Awards](#); [Refund Policy](#)