

Appendix II - Rules and Regulations

Note:

The following list comprises of the rules for all the rounds in AstroChallenge. The organizing committee reserves the right to amend any part thereof in this list.

General Rules:

- **Handheld communication devices or devices with storage and display capabilities (other than calculators) should not be used during all the quiz rounds.**
- **All questions asked are strictly based on astronomy.**
- **Any team caught cheating will be disqualified immediately from the competition. The teacher in-charge and their respective schools will be notified in the event of cheating.**
- **The tabulation of points is final. No further correspondence will be entertained.**
- **The point score of each round will be kept confidential and will not be released to any participant.**

Rules and Regulations for Specific Rounds:

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) Round

Duration: 1 hour

This round aims to test knowledge on astronomy

- This is an individual round.
- The team reserve can take part.
- The overall points for MCQ will be the total marks from the best 4 individuals in the team.
- There will be a total of 40 Questions.
- A Best Astronomer from each category will be selected based on the individual score for this round.
- The types of questions are different for newcomer and for junior and senior category.
- The questions for *newcomer category* are related to the basic astronomy knowledge like solar system, constellations, deep sky objects, simple telescope knowledge, and recognizing the types of galaxies.

Data Response Question Round

Duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes

This round aims to test application of principles and concepts in astronomy

- This round can be done as a group
- The questions are application of knowledge based.
- The team reserve cannot take part, unless one member of the team is absent and/or unwell. Only 4 participants of the team can take part in Data response.

- The points awarded to the team for this round consist of the total mark tabulated from all the questions.
- There will be total of 5 Data Response Questions. Each question is not related to each other.
- The questions for *Newcomer category* generally require basic application of math in solving astronomy problems. The formulas will also be given for those questions which need many formulas.
- Assessment will be primarily based on construction, style, accuracy of facts, presentation skills and creativity.
- Refer to Appendix III for **AstroChallenge 2009 Cosplay Parade @ Marine Parade Entry Rules and Regulations**.
- **Participants must print and sign the attached Project Round Information Sheet and Declaration Form (see Appendix IV).**

Observation Round (Senior Category Only)

Duration: 2 hours (depends on weather)

Venue: Field at NTU Sports and Recreation Center (SRC), behind Hall 6.

This round aims to test practical skills in night sky observation

- This is an inter-school round.
- Each school can only have ONE team (5 people) in the observation round. If the school has more than 1 participating team, all teams will get the same points as the participating team. The school can choose 5 people out of all its participating teams to participate in this round.
- Participants are given a list of celestial objects to search using their own telescopes, and then complete their log sheets (provided).
- The objects can be found in ANY order. Each object is assigned a difficulty level, which will be given to you during the round. The more difficult the object, the higher the points.
- Judges will conduct random checks to verify the objects found by the team.
- Go-to enabled mounts/scopes and any form of computerized mounts/scopes are NOT allowed to be used during this round, unless the motor and computer are switched off and the scope operated manually.
- Planispheres, or any other reference material, are NOT allowed. A standard star chart is provided for all participants to maintain consistency.
- Participants are expected to pack their equipment in shock absorbing material to ensure it will not be damaged during transport.
- The organizers, judges, NTU, NUS and Marine Parade CC are **not** liable for any loss or damage of equipment at any point of time during the competition.
- This round is dependent on the weather and in case of bad weather, the organizing committee reserves the right to call off or replace the round.
- The organizing committee of AstroChallenge 2009 cannot be held liable for the weather.

Project Round

Duration: 2 hours for all three categories (1 minute presentation for each team).

This round aims to test creativity and application of ideas

- Participants are to perform a **cosplay** of “**Any Astronomy Related Scientist**” with the complete specification and context decided by the team **prior** to the competition.
- The cost for preparing the costume must be **less than S\$50**.
- All groups will be given approximately 30 minutes to prepare before presentation.
- The reserve can help with the preparation of the costume and presentation.
- Each group is given **1 minute** to present their model to the judges and/or audience.
- The team must be ready to answer any questions that the judges and/or audience may ask. They may use simple materials to aid in their explanation.

Note: Computer presentations **should not** be used.

- The entrants may be filmed or photographed during the cosplay parade. Newcomer Category’s project will be judged separately from Senior and

Special Round

Duration: 2 hours

Rules will be announced before the commencement of the round.

Final Round

Duration: 2 hours

The **top five teams*** (based on all the rounds) from the Senior, Junior and Newcomer category will each take part in this round.

- Only 4 participants are allowed for each team. The fifth member is not allowed to sit together with the team.
- Any question or answer mentioned after the 2 hour duration **will not** be accounted for in the overall points for the teams.

Round 1: Individual Round.

- Each member of the team is to answer questions without help from the other members.

Round 2

- The rules regarding this round will be revealed on the day itself.

Round 2: Buzzer Round.

- The Quizmaster will indicate who has hit the buzzer before the team is allowed to answer the question.
- The team will be given a time limit to answer the question. If the answer is incomplete or not given after the time limit, the team is deemed to have given an incorrect answer. The question may then be opened to the rest of the teams.

- In the event of a dispute, the judges and organizers reserve the right to have the final say in the accuracy of the answer, and the award of points. The judges' decision is final.

* As mentioned in the previous letter, **only one team from each school per category** can qualify for the Final Round.

Score Weightage (AstroChallenge 2008)*

	Junior and Newcomer	Senior
Round 1 - MCQ	35%	30%
Round 2 - Data	35%	30%
Round 3 - Special round	10%	10%
Round 4 - Observation	-	10%
Round 5 - Project	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

Grand total = (0.7 x Total for Final Rounds in %) + (0.3 x Total for Preliminary Rounds in %)

* The weightage for AstroChallenge 2008 is given to serve as a guide for the participants. The committee reserves the right to amend the weightage when necessary.