

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakota Nation Invitational Language Bowl Official Rules

1. Open to students in Elementary, Middle, or High School.
2. Teams must have at least **three** members, and a maximum of **five** registered members, with one alternate allowed. A student may not be on two teams. Also, alternates need to be aware that if their team wins first place, they may not get a jacket.
3. School divisions (i.e. high schools) may enter a maximum of **two** teams.
4. Teams must be checked in no later than **9:30**. **ONLY TEAMS WHOSE REGISTRATION WAS RECEIVED BEFORE THE DECEMBER 6 DEADLINE WILL BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.** The competition will begin at **10:00** with filling in of the tournament bracket, reading over of competition rules, a quick review of game equipment operation, and opening prayer. The bracket, as always, will be **double-elimination**.
5. Teams who are not present at competition time will have a grace period of **15 minutes** before forfeiting. Students who disperse to other parts of the Civic Center will do so at their own risk. Teams are encouraged to remain in the competition room and watch and learn from the other teams. Lunch and dinner breaks will be announced ahead of time to give upcoming teams fair notice.
6. Competitions will run **10 minutes**. Tiebreakers, if needed, will be **5 minutes**.
7. The student who buzzes in for a given word **must** be the one to say the answer, although they will be allowed to confer with their teammates within the allotted time of **10 seconds** beforehand.
8. A correct answer means that **all** words must be pronounced with the correct aspiration, word stress, gutturalization (if appropriate), and anything else necessary for proper pronunciation. If an answer is inaudible, or if the judges are not sure if it was pronounced precisely enough, the student answering will be allowed to repeat it **ONCE** for clarification. If the answer is deemed not to be accurate enough after all, the Moderator will pronounce the word correctly before moving on (e.g. "P<sup>h</sup>asu, not pasu," demonstrating the proper guttural sound at the beginning).

9. If the Lakota term answered is incorrect, or if time expires, the opposing team will have **10 seconds** to answer. If a student gives an answer that is an accurate translation, but different from the word given in the packet, it will be accepted as long as the judges approve it.
10. All words for translation will be chosen by whoever is the Moderator at the time. The Moderator will choose no more than five words from any given section before moving on to the next section.
11. Players must keep their hands **at their sides** until the moment someone buzzes in. If someone “jumps the gun” and buzzes in too early before the Moderator has had a chance to finish saying the word or phrase, they still must provide an answer.
12. Coaches and spectators will refrain from giving hints or answers. Questions will be forfeited should this occur.
13. **Good sportsmanship** will be displayed by all contestants, coaches, and spectators. Teams should be gracious during competition, whether participating or watching, and at the end of every round, the members of the two teams should shake hands.
14. Negative behavior by any individual during the competition will disqualify them from competing from that moment on. *No drama*, either from students or adults. If a team disagrees with a call, the coach may bring the issue up with the event sponsor in a constructive and non-confrontational way. **ALL JUDGES’ DECISIONS ARE FINAL**
15. The “use the word in a sentence, get an extra point” rule may be used in competition *if the teams vote beforehand to allow it*. At least one person from each team must vote affirmatively for it to go into effect.
16. For the semi-final and final rounds, the competition will involve an exercise designed to test students’ proficiency in spontaneous language use, as opposed to basic memorization. The moderator will have a list of Lakota phrases that form the first half of open-ended Lakota sentences. These will be read one-by-one, to give the students a chance to complete the sentence in a way that makes sense and uses proper grammar. **The students and sponsors will not have been shown these sentences beforehand.**