

KENTUCKY/TENNESSEE SECTION WATER PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE
Section Top-Ops Contest
— 2021 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS —

INTRODUCTION

I-1. The purpose of the AWWA KY/TN Top Ops Competition is to recognize and promote excellence and professionalism in all aspects of water operations by establishing a Competition that gives operators the opportunity to showcase their talents.

I-2. Top Ops Competition is a competitive, question-and-answer tournament.

I-3. A moderator will pose a broad range of technical questions. Points will be awarded to each team that displays a correct answer.

I-4. Top Ops Competition preliminary rounds will be organized based on the total number of competitors.

I-5. The schedule for Top Ops Competition will be provided on the website and shall appear in the conference program every year.

ELIGIBILITY

E-1. Teams of one (1), two (2), or three (3) water operators from AWWA Sections are invited to compete.

E-2. Each AWWA Section, including Multi-State Provincial Sections may enter one (1) team in the AWWA ACE Top Ops Competition. The ACE local host Section is permitted to send up to two (2) teams. The Section with the returning champion team is permitted to send one (1) additional team, up to a total of two (2). If the ACE Local Host Section also has the returning champion, they are permitted to send a total of three (3) teams.

E-3. Each AWWA Top Ops Competition participant must be a current AWWA member from the time of registration through the ACE event. This membership may be an individual membership, or the participant can be a regular employee of an AWWA Utility Member. Each Section is responsible for verifying the membership status of each participant before entering them into the competition.

E-4. A team must consist of the same individuals throughout the entire AWWA ACE Top Ops Competition, but the team members need not be employees of the same organization or utility.

E-5. All team members must satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

They must work full-time as a water treatment plant employee or a water distribution system employee. At least 50% of their time must be as a water treatment plant employee or a water distribution employee. They must possess a valid water operator, laboratory, and/or distribution certificate for their jurisdiction. Any Section-level contestants who do not hold this certification may not participate at the Association level.

Only individuals whose primary day-to-day job functions include hands-on operational tasks within the water utility or distribution system are eligible to compete. Teams may not include anyone with a more senior job function than a first line (fore person) supervisor. Engineers are not allowed to compete unless they are working as a full-time operator.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

R-1. To enter, email registration form to Drew.Watson@amwater.com. **No registration is available onsite. To allow proper determination of the number of rounds of questions required, Forms must be sent before May 31**

R-2. Each team must make its own travel and lodging arrangements.

R-3. Due to the competitive nature of the Top Ops Competition, and to assure fairness, recording or photographing Top Ops questions in anyway during the Competition is strictly prohibited. Persons observed recording the competition, photographing the questions or transcribing the questions will be asked to discontinue and leave the room.

HOW YOU WIN

H-1. At the end of the preliminary round, the two teams with the highest preliminary round scores advance to the final round of the Top Ops Competition.

WHAT WINNING TEAM RECIEVES

W-1. The AWWA Top Ops Competition Championship team is automatically eligible for the next year's AWWA ACE Top Ops Competition.

COMPETITION

C-1. The competition will consist of three (3) preliminary rounds for each team, two (2) semi- final rounds, and a Championship round. Depending on the number of entrants, there may be two or three teams competing in any preliminary round. The number of questions for each competition round will be determined by the subcommittee. Questions used in the competition are from the approved reference list posted on the AWWA website and have been verified by a minimum of three subject matter experts.

C-2. Questions for the competition are categorized into the following subject areas:

- A. Safety
- B. Water Treatment Processes
- C. Laboratory
- D. Maintenance
- E. Distribution
- F. Basic Science

C-3. The questions will be asked by one (1) or more moderators, who will be selected by the Chair of the Top Ops Subcommittee. Each moderator must be a water professional..

C-4. Each question will be displayed on a monitor in front of the competitors and read aloud by the moderator. Once a question has been read, the competitors must write the answer on their white boards within fifteen (15) seconds for a non-math question or within twenty-five (25) seconds for a math question. Once the allotted time is up, each team will display a single white board showing either the team's answer or "No Response".

During both the semi-final rounds and the final rounds, the time the competitors must write the answer on their white boards within 30 seconds.

C-5. The judges will determine whether the answer displayed by each team is correct or incorrect. Correctly answered non-math questions will be worth two (2) round points. Correctly answered math questions will be worth three (3) round points. Incorrect answers (both non-math and math) will result in the deduction of one (1) round point. If a team chooses to display the "No Response" side of the whiteboard, round points will neither be earned nor deducted for that question.

C-6. Each team will compete in three (3) preliminary rounds. The team with the most round points at the end of each preliminary round will be awarded three (3) qualifying points, the second-place team will receive two (2) qualifying points and the third-place team will receive one (1) qualifying point. If there is a tie of round points at the end of a preliminary round, the teams that are tied will answer one or more additional questions until the tie is broken. The additional question(s) will be asked and scored in the same manner as typical round questions.

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

E-1. All equipment is to be provided by AWWA.

E-2. Materials provided to each team include:

- A.) 3 pens
- B.) 3 pads of paper
- C.) 3 calculators
- D.) 3 whiteboards
- E.) 4 whiteboard pens
- F.) 1-3 erasers
- G.) 1 bell

JUDGING

J-1. There will be a panel of no more than three (3) judges appointed by the Chair of the Top Ops Subcommittee. In the event an answer needs interpretation for accuracy, one (1) of the three (3) judges will be designated as the chief judge and will have the final word in any judgements.

J-2. Judges cannot be associated in any way with a team they may judge and will be replaced in the event of any conflict of interest.

J-3. The decision of the judges will be final.

SAFETY & CONDUCT

S-1. Due to the competitive nature of the AWWA ACE Top Ops Competition, and to assure fairness, recording or photographing Top Ops questions in any way during the competition is strictly prohibited. Persons observed recording the competition, photographing the questions, or transcribing the questions will be removed from the competition room and required to erase or destroy all captured competition material under the observation of security. A team may be disqualified and/or barred from future competitions if a competitor, coach, or an audience member affiliated with the team is caught engaging in any of these activities or any other act deemed to be subversive to the integrity or fairness of the competition.

S-2. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and could result in individuals or teams being disqualified from the competition. Judges, competitors, and/or volunteers may not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal substances while performing duties related to the competition. Violations of this will be determined at the discretion of AWWA Staff and the Top Ops Competition Subcommittee Chair.

S-3. Teams will not be allowed to participate if they are wearing articles of clothing or using equipment plainly displaying offensive language, slogans, or graphics.

S-4. Children under the age of 16 entering the Exhibit Hall and/or AWWA ACE Top Ops Competition area during show hours need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. No one under the age of 16 is allowed in the Exhibit Hall and/or AWWA ACE Top Ops Competition area during move-in, move-out, or non-show hours. A parent or guardian assumes all risks and responsibility for the safety of his or her child. Anyone 12 years or older will require a badge to enter the Exhibit Hall and/or Top Ops competition area.

Overall Schedule for the Competition:

On the day of the competition as indicated in the conference program, a pre-competition meeting will be held before the start of the competition. Team captains, judges and organizers will be in attendance. Separate judging criteria will be explained in detail and the competition facilities will be toured. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for all team captains, but all team members may attend.

Awards:

The Championship team will:

1. Be presented with a special team trophy to keep at the close of competition.
2. Be presented with an individual medal.
3. May be featured on the Kentucky/Tennessee Section AWWA website/publications.
4. Be reimbursed for a portion of the expenses, as approved by the Kentucky/Tennessee Section AWWA Board of Trustees, to return for the next Top-Ops competition at the ACE the following year.

The Second, Third and Fourth place teams may:

1. Be presented with an individual medal.
2. Be featured in Kentucky/Tennessee Section AWWA website/publications.

Each participating team member will receive a complimentary Kentucky/Tennessee Section Annual Conference Exhibit Hall Badge for the day of the competition only. Additional days will require registration.

KENTUCKY/TENNESSEE SECTION WATER PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

Section Top-Ops Contest

— 2021 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM —

1. **Please return your entry no later than May 31, 2021.**
2. A KENTUCKY OR TENNESSEE UTILITY must sponsor all Top-Ops Teams.
3. You must read the 2021 Kentucky/Tennessee Section AWWA Official Top-Ops Rules and Regulations and meet all of the requirements prior to contest entry.
4. Return all entry forms by mail, email to:

Drew Watson
Tennessee American Water
7 Wiehl Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403
Email: Drew.Watson@amwater.com

Utility Represented: _____

Utility Address: _____

Team Name: _____

Contact Person:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Team Members:

Name Position

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

I have read the Rules and Regulations for competition in the Top-Ops Contest and my team meets all of the requirements. Should any member of my team be found not to meet the requirements, I acknowledge that my team will be disqualified.

Coach's Signature: _____ Date: _____