



Linnaean Games Guidelines Entomological Society of America, Pacific Branch



The PBESA Linnaean Games, like the national ESA Linnaean Games, are a lively question- and-answer, college bowl-style competition on entomological facts played between university- sponsored student teams. It is an important and entertaining component of the PBESA Annual Meeting. Each team is comprised of four players (plus alternates if desired). The teams score points by answering questions correctly. The winning team and runner-up team win bragging rights among the Pacific Branch contestants and both qualify to represent the branch by competing in the national ESA Linnaean Games. The winning team also receives \$500 to offset its travel expenses to the national competition (November 15-18, 2015, Minneapolis, Minnesota).

Participation

Any student wishing to participate in the games is eligible to do so as long as he/she is in a degree program (B.S., M.S., or Ph.D.) or has completed a degree within one year prior to the contest. Students wishing to participate should contact the appropriate faculty member within their Department. Each team member's name, along with names of alternates, should be submitted **before the deadline of March 9, 2015** to PBESA Linnaean Games Chair Michael Costello via email to: mcostell@calpoly.edu. Questions about the games may also be directed to that email address.

Competition Questions

Points are scored by correctly answering questions asked by the moderator. The two types of questions are Toss-ups and Bonuses with each question worth 10 points.

Each round begins with a Toss-up question. The first player to signal answers the question. He/she must do so without consultation with other team members. No player should volunteer an answer to a Toss-up until recognized by the moderator as the eligible respondent. If no player signals within 10 seconds of completion of the question, the next Toss-up question begins.

If a player answers a Toss-up correctly, the team is awarded 10 points and is given a chance at a Bonus question. All team members may confer on the answer to the Bonus question. The captain will act as spokesperson for the team, and his/her answer will be the official one. On the turnover, a player must signal and be recognized before answering. If a player answers a Toss-up wrong, the question is turned over to the other team. If answered correctly, 10 points are awarded.

A player may interrupt the moderator before a Toss-up question has been completely read by signaling. If a correct answer is given, the team scores 10 points and is given a chance at a Bonus question. If an incorrect answer is given, the team is penalized five points and the entire question is repeated for the other team. A correct answer by a member of the other team scores 10 points and a chance at a bonus question.

A game typically consists of 16 Toss-up questions. The team with the most points at the end of the game is the winner. If the score is tied at the end of the regulation game, the tie is broken by a sudden-death playoff. The first correct answer to a Tie-Breaker Toss-up question wins the game. An incorrect answer through an interruption (an answer given before question completely read) to a Tie-Breaker loses the game.

Questions and answers are prepared by the PBESA Linnaean Games Chair in consultation with other ESA members. Toss-up questions are categorized according to the following subject areas: Apiculture, Biological Control, Ecology, Economic Entomology, Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Physiology and Biochemistry, Taxonomy and Toxicology. Bonus questions can come from any area of entomology but will draw heavily on the areas of history and people. On the average, two Toss-up questions in each game will come from each subject-area category.

Linnaean Games Chair reserves the right to modify format or number of questions in the interests of time or unforeseen circumstances.

Team Pairings

The champion team will be determined by tournament format in which pairings are drawn at random.

Substitute/Alternate Team Members

At the end of each game, teams may substitute designated alternates, allowing every student sent by his/her department a chance to participate. In the event that an alternate was not pre- designated prior to the annual meeting and a regular member cannot participate, the team must compete without the services of that team member.