

KENTUCKY/TENNESSEE SECTION WATER PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE

Section Top-Ops Contest

— 2019 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS —

I. Purpose:

To recognize and promote excellence and professionalism in all aspects of water operations by establishing a contest that gives water operators the opportunity to showcase their talents.

ELIGIBILITY

E-1. Teams of one (1), two (2) or three (3) water operators from AWWA KY/TN Sections are invited to compete. All persons on the team shall be AWWA members.

E-2. A team must consist of the same individuals throughout the entire Competition.

E-3. Individual team members must satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

a. They must work full-time as a water and/or wastewater treatment plant employee, a water distribution system employee, a sewer collection system operator, or in a first-line supervisory capacity. At least 50% of their time must be as a water treatment plant employee or water distribution employee.

b. They must possess a valid water operator, wastewater, laboratory, and/or distribution certificate for their jurisdiction.

c. Team members will be those individuals who are directly involved in water and/or wastewater utility operations on a daily basis. Therefore, teams may not include anyone higher than a first line (fore person) supervisor. Engineers, upper-level supervisors, et al. who do not work as day-to-day operators, are similarly precluded from participating.

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.

COMPETITION ENTRY AND CONFERENCE 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 RECEIVES

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. Team members should be prepared to answer questions in the following areas:

- a. Basic sciences as they apply to water technology;
- b. Public health and sanitary practices;
- c. O&M plant and pump maintenance (e.g. chemical feeders);
- d. Plant and laboratory safety;
- e. Process control during both normal and abnormal conditions;
- f. Operator laboratory operations;
- g. Monitoring requirements;
- h. Water distribution and wastewater collection;
- i. Water hydrology;
- j. Intermediate level mathematics.

C-3. The number of questions for each preliminary round will be determined by the Top Ops coordinator based on the number of teams competing. For example: There may be 10 to 20 questions in each preliminary round and 3 to 5 tiebreaker questions. The point value for each correctly answered question will be two (2) points. Math questions will be worth three (3) points. The final round will consist of 20 to 30 questions with 5 tiebreaker questions.

- a. Each team will be supplied with one whiteboard. One side will have an erasable writeable side and the other will have a sign that says "No Response". Each Competition team will write down, on the whiteboard provided, the correct response to the question for the judges to determine which teams have answered correctly, and award or deduct points as described below. Each team that answers the question correctly is awarded two (2) or three (3) points. If the teams respond incorrectly, one (1) point will be deducted from their score. If a team displays "No Response" zero (0) points will be added to their score.
- b. The allotted time for competitors to answer the questions will up to twenty-five (25) seconds per question.

C-4. At the end of the preliminary round, the two teams with the highest score shall proceed to the final rounds. In the event of a tie, five (5) tie breaker questions will be asked to determine who may advance to the final round.

C-5. The team with the most points scored in the Championship/Final round will be declared the KY/TN Section Top Ops Competition Champion. .

C-6. Depending on the number of entrants, there may be two (2) or three (3) teams competing in any given round.

C-7. The questions will be asked by a moderator, who will be selected by the Chair of the Top Ops Subcommittee. The moderator must be a water professional. Both the questions and answers will be given to the moderator immediately before the competition.

C-8. Once a question has been read aloud by the moderator and/or displayed via Competition monitor, teams will have up to twenty-five (25) seconds to write their answers on their whiteboards. Once the allotted time is up each team will either display their answer or "No Response". Each team has the same opportunity to answer the question(s) within the allotted time, and their answers will be evaluated by the judges.

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

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

E-3. Materials provided to each team include:

- A.) Three pens
- B.) Three pads of paper
- C.) Three calculators
- D.) One whiteboard
- E.) Two whiteboard pens
- F.) One eraser
- G.) One bell

JUDGING

J-1. Prior to the displayed answer each team will need to show the judges their whiteboard with an answer written on the erasable writeable side or "No Response" if they are passing on the question. The teams, who in the opinion of the judges, answer the question correctly will be awarded points as outlined in Section C-3a.

J-2. There will be a panel of three judges appointed by the Chair of the Top Ops Subcommittee in the event an answer needs interpretation for accuracy. The decision of the judges will be final.

J-3. Judges will be selected from water professional members of the Kentucky/Tennessee Section AWWA. There will be no more than three judges on the panel. Of the three, every effort will be made that one judge be involved in water operations, the second a member of a water regulatory agency or from the academia field (if possible, from the state that the competition is held), and the third a consultant in the water field. The Top-Ops Coordinator will appoint the chief judge. The judge designated as chief judge has the final word in any judgments.

J-4. Judges cannot be associated in anyway with a team they may judge and will be replaced.

SAFETY

S-1. Standard Competition decorum will be observed at all times during the competition.

S-3. Judges, Competitors, and/or Volunteers may not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal substances whilst performing duties related to the competition. Violation to be determined at the discretion of the Top Ops Competition Committee Chair.

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.

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— 2019 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM —

1. **Please return your entry no later than May 31, 2019.**
2. A KENTUCKY OR TENNESSEE UTILITY must sponsor all Top-Ops Teams.
3. You must read the 2019 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
107 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: _____