

# IRECA EMS Competition Information

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The team competition committee is in the process of planning the upcoming event and is looking forward to working with the teams again this year. Each participant will take a written exam at his/her level of licensure. Awards will be given to teams that place first, second, and third in BLS and Paramedic Competitions. Teams are asked to be in uniform for the picture, written and practical competition. (A schedule of room assignments will be available at the team briefing). Team equipment will be checked into the competition area the morning of the competition only and must be removed at the end of the competition day. Because of other events, there is no overnight security of equipment available. After you finish the competition, please go to the area designated to complete an evaluation, pick up a continuing education slip and sign the continuing education roster. There are two categories for BLS competitors: **Youth (under 19) and Adult.**

**Competition schedule available on current conference brochure.**

**NO REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER August 1.** We hope the competition will be a positive and rewarding experience for each of you! Good luck...and enjoy!

## **IRECA COMPETITION OVERVIEW** **Deadline for Team Registration: August 1**

The key to success in competing is advanced preparation. Your team will need to prepare for a comprehensive written examination as well as evaluation as a team in a minimum of two simulated patient care scenarios. This requires a review of EMS standards, and current information found in EMS journals, as well as practicing as a team in simulated patient care scenarios.

Each team member will participate in the written exam competition at their level of licensing. All team members, including alternates, will be competing for awards recognizing first, second, and third place winners for BLS and ALS (paramedic) levels. Winners are announced at the awards ceremony Saturday night.

Over all competition awards are determined by combining scores in the written competition with those of each team scenario to determine placement for BLS and Paramedic teams.

As you read through the enclosed information in making your decision to compete, here are a few other facts to keep in mind:

1. All participating teams must be in uniform with appropriate proof of certification. You are asked to be in uniform for the team picture taken prior to the competition, the written and practical competitions.
2. A required captain/team briefing will take place on prior to the competitions with the Chief Judge to answer questions and clarify concerns.
3. Teams may be sequestered once the practical portion of the competition begins. It will be necessary to bring all required equipment and supplies at this time.

4. 6 continuing education credits are given to each participant at the completion of the competition and completion of an evaluation and signing of the continuing education roster.
5. The judging staff is made up of EMS Instructor Coordinators and practitioners from a variety of locations around the country. It is important that each member of the team read the official rules carefully. Any violation will result in disqualification of the team.
6. All competitors must be members of IRECA in good standing.

We take great pride in the quality of the competition as it has evolved over the years. We can guarantee a challenging, thought provoking experience for all teams. We hope the competition will be a positive and rewarding experience for each of you. GOOD LUCK!

The EMS Competition Committee  
rescuer@ireca.org

## **GENERAL INFORMATION IRECA EMS COMPETITION**

### **JUDGING**

Every effort is made to assure fair and consistent evaluation by judges during the practical skills evaluation. This is a competition. The very best possible decision will be made at the time of the event. Decisions are not subject to later interpretation of video replay. The decisions of the judging teams and chief judge are final.

The written competition consists of questions above and beyond the level expected of students or recent graduates. It is designed to stimulate EMS personnel to read journals, textbooks, and to become aware of the current concepts in pre-hospital care.

### **COMPETITION SECURITY**

The competition committee takes great pride in the security we have built around the exam. Following is a brief explanation of the steps taken to insure security. Any violation will result in the chief judge disqualifying the team.

The scenarios are developed by each of the chief judges. The Practical Competition Judges are given the scenario information during the judges meeting at the IRECA Conference. Patients involved in the scenario receive information about the situation when they arrive in the station.

Teams may be sequestered during the time of the practical competition. They are not allowed to talk with anyone except the other competing teams until after they have finished both practical stations. Teams who have completed are not allowed to return to the sequestering room.

The written competition is developed by the Competition Coordinator and is not seen by anyone prior to the time it is given to the teams at the IRECA Conference. Any judge who wants to review the written competition exam is given the opportunity following the competition.

During the written competition team members are seated apart from each other. Each team member must be in uniform with a nametag (conference name tag accepted) and present (an original EMS license. For youth competitors, 1 member must be EMT trained (or instructor/advisor letter of experience required), for other team members first responder certifications required. Monitors are present throughout the exam.

The results of the competition are not tabulated until the end of the entire competition. No one on the judging team has any idea of how a team did in the other station or on the written exam. When the competition is over the Chief Judges and Competition Coordinator tabulate the scores to determine the winners. The judges find out the results at the same time the teams do, when the winners are announced at the awards ceremony.

## **OFFICIAL RULES IRECA COMPETITION**

### **SEQUESTERING**

Teams may be sequestered during the time of the practical competition. The need for sequestering is dependent on the number of competing teams. Team members cannot leave the room, make phone calls, or talk or communicate with anyone from outside the room.

#### **PAGERS, RADIOS, AND PHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE SEQUESTERING AREA.**

Please eat prior to the designated time of the practical competition. Beverages and light snacks are allowed, in the sequestering area (if sequestering is required). The written competition and sequestering area will have water provided. Anyone needing to use the restroom will be escorted to and from by a judging assistant.

If you have medication you need to take please bring it with you or take it prior to arrival at the sequestering area.

Teams will be escorted to the practical competition site and will not be allowed to talk with anyone at this time. Please inform your family, friends, co-workers of this rule so they will not attempt to contact you or talk to you at anytime during the written or practical competition. Contact with anyone outside the competition will result in team disqualification. All disqualification decisions are finalized by the Competition Coordinator.

### **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

Team equipment and supplies must be prepared prior to the day of the competition and brought to the sequestering area with you. If two teams from your agency will be using the same equipment, the first team must restock supplies and prepare all of the equipment before it will be returned to the sequestering area by a judging assistant for the second team. No more than two teams may share equipment. It is the team's responsibility to be sure to bring enough supplies to restock for the second team. If more than two teams from the same agency are competing it is required that you bring a second set of equipment.

All equipment is subject to approval at the sole discretion of the (chief judge).

## **TEAM COMPOSITION**

BLS teams must be composed of 3 licensed personnel one of which must be an EMT-Basic. Youth teams must have one EMT trained individual, certified with a letter from their instructor. The second and third team members must be at least currently licensed First Responders.

Paramedic teams must be composed of 3 licensed personnel. Two team members must be Paramedics. The third team member can be a Paramedic or Basic EMT.

Each team may have one alternate with the same license requirements. A temporary license is a current license and will qualify the person at that level.

## **WRITTEN COMPETITION**

The written competition exam questions are based on based on the current Brady Emergency Care (EMT-Basic level) textbook.

All team members and alternates must take the written competition exam at the level of their current state EMS license.

## **ALTERNATES**

The alternate's written exam score will be used in the team final total only in the event that the alternate actually becomes a team member. It is your responsibility to notify the Competition Coordinator if an alternate becomes a team member ASAP! An alternate may be sequestered with the team but this is not required. However, once the alternate leaves the sequestering area they cannot return.

## **UNIFORM REQUIREMENT**

All team members must wear a uniform and a nametag to the written and practical competition.

## **PRACTICAL COMPETITION**

There will be a time limit for each practical skills scenario. Prior to the scenario you will be given the dispatch information in the holding area (simulated ambulance). You will receive points only for the procedures actually performed. Scenarios will be timed and all scenarios will begin simultaneously. Teams will be stopped at the end of the time limit. The problem starts when team captain is handed the problem. Immediate action items must be completed within (3-4) minutes of being handed the problem.

There will be a simulated ambulance area for your supplies and equipment. Any equipment you cannot carry to the victim must be placed in the simulated ambulance area.

The judges will only give information on procedures performed. Two examples:

1. If information is asked regarding the blood pressure, the team must have actually taken a blood pressure.
2. If the pulse is checked and the rate is requested, the pulse must have been taken by the team for the correct length of time.

The team will get credit for the procedures performed as if you were in a real situation. Competitors are not allowed to simulate actions. Two examples:

1. If the victim is to be placed on a backboard, you must apply straps. You cannot just verbalize to the judges that you would do it.
2. If a drug is to be pushed over a specific time period you must spend that amount of time doing it.

## **STANDARDS**

Current EMS standards will be used. First Responder and EMT-Basics will function only at the level of your license. You cannot perform skills you are not licensed to do.

## **ATTEND ALL EVENTS**

Team members are required to attend the team briefing, written and practical competition. All team members are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony. The alternate is a member of the team and encouraged to be with the team for the picture and awards ceremony introductions.

There will be no drinking of alcoholic beverages during the written competition, practical competition or team briefing.

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS**

Participants receive 6 CE credits. The category of credits will not be available until after the competition.

## **DISQUALIFICATION**

Violation of an Official Rule or security measure by a team member will result in disqualification of the team. Disqualification is at the discretion of the Chief Judge and Competition Coordinator.