Reviewed and Approved October 3, 2025

In accordance with National MATHCOUNTS mandates, a minimum of one team and two additional top scoring competitors per chapter will advance to the State Competition. The additional top scoring competitors will advance to the State Competition as an "Independent." (Note: An "Independent" may have been registered at the chapter level as an Individual or as a Team Member, but they have progressed to the State Competition based on their own merit and will compete at the State Competition without a team. This California-specific term has been created to easily identify this type of competitor.)

- Independents will participate in the Sprint and Target rounds only. Based on these results, they will be eligible to qualify for the Countdown Round.
- Independents will also be eligible for individual competitor awards and advancement to the national competition.
- Independents are not eligible to release his/her position to another student. That position, once vacated, will be forfeited.

Alternates and Unofficial Competitors

Students that participated as alternates or unofficial competitors at the Chapter Competition are not eligible to advance to the State Competition. Alternates and unofficial competitors will not be seated at the State Competition.

Substitutions

Coaches may not substitute a Team Member for the State Competition unless a student voluntarily releases his/her position on the school team. Such a request must be submitted in writing to the State Coordinator by February 28. Exceptions to this rule will be considered by the State Coordinator on a case by case basis.

Substitutions that are not recorded with the State Coordinator by 10 a.m. the day prior to the event will not be recognized, and the student will not be allowed to compete under any circumstances. Additional restrictions on substitutions such as requiring parental release are at the discretion of the State Coordinator.

Coaches may not make substitutions for students progressing to the State Competition as Independents. At all levels of competition, student substitutions are not permitted after on-site competition registration has been completed.

Number of Advancing Teams and Independents

Highest Scoring School Teams advance as follows:

- 1–10 schools registered in chapter* — allowed 1 Team
- 11–20 schools registered in chapter* — allowed 2 Teams
- 21–30 schools registered in chapter* — allowed 4 Teams
- 31–40 schools registered in chapter* — allowed 5 Teams
- 41 or more schools registered in chapter* — allowed 6 Teams

* The number of schools registered in a chapter is determined by adding the number of official school registrations to the number of schools represented by Non School Competitors.

If the winner of the Chapter Competition is a magnet school and/or has won the Chapter Competition for the second consecutive year one additional team will be allowed to advance to the State Competition. No more than one additional team per chapter is allowed to advance in this manner.

Advancing Teams will be the top scoring Teams based on overall Team scores at the Chapter Competition.

Independents are selected as follows:

- 1–10 Schools registered in chapter* — 2 Independents advance
- 11–20 Schools registered in chapter* — 3 Independents advance
- 21–30 Schools registered in chapter* — 5 Independents advance
- 31–40 Schools registered in chapter* — 6 Independents advance
- 41 or more Schools registered in chapter* — 7 Independents advance

* The number of schools registered in a chapter is determined by adding the number of official school registrations to the number of schools represented by Non School Competitors.

Independents will be the top scoring competitors at the Chapter Competition (based on Sprint and Target Round scores), who are not on an advancing School Team. Independents may have been registered as a school Team Member or an Individual. Regardless of registration status at the chapter level, Independents will compete only in

the Sprint and Target Rounds at the State Competition, and the Countdown Round if qualified.

State Competition Cap

The state reserves the right to place a cap on the total number of students at the State Competition at 375 participants statewide. Because the approximate number of competitors is not available until final registration has been completed, the State Coordinator will make any necessary adjustments to the above described advancement numbers and notify all chapter coordinators at that time. It will be the responsibility of the Chapter Coordinator to notify their participating coaches of any changes. If space and resources permit, and at the sole discretion of the State Coordinator, additional high scoring Independents may be invited to the state competition. These Independents will be selected based on their statewide performance rather than performance within their Chapter.