



# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON

## • Interview Rules & Guidelines •

### **STUDENTS WILL BE JUDGED ON THEIR ABILITY TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Present ideas and responses informally and orally that are appropriate to the setting and the questions asked.
- Listen to the comments and inquiries of the interviewers and elaborate with interesting detail and vivid impressions while avoiding repetition.
- Establish and maintain rapport with members of the interview group through voice, gesture, and attitudinal posture.
- Use voice, vocabulary, and language structures appropriate to informal oral communication.

### **PROCEDURE:**

- At a scheduled time during the competition, each student will report to a designated interview room. Each room will have a panel of two or three judges. Scrimmage competitions may have one judge.
- The length of the interview may vary according to the judges, but interviews will generally last from four to seven minutes.
- Questions and conversation with the contestant will generally be limited to the following topics: high school studies and activities, career and college plans, preparation and experiences in academic decathlon, travel, role models, and influential persons.
- If a hearing-impaired student wishes to conduct his/her interview via sign language, then he/she may do so; however, the coach must notify the competition coordinator in advance of the competition, so arrangements can be made to accommodate an interpreter. The student's school is responsible for making arrangements for and covering the cost of a sign language interpreter.
- If a student without a hearing impairment wishes to use sign language in his/her interview, he/she may do so; however, the student is responsible for providing an oral interpretation of the information that was signed.
- If a student wishes to use words or phrases from a foreign language in her/her interview, then he/she is responsible for translating those words and/or phrases into English. Foreign language interpreters will not be provided.