

Team Formation

Booklet Work: Small groups that work as teams are the core of the competitive Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) component of the FPSP. Students learn to brainstorm together and to divide up the written work so that each team member contributes to the final problem solving booklet. Individual students proficient in the problem solving process may register to work alone in the Individual Competition at the district level. Rather than the usual 16, Individuals write eight challenges and solutions.

Coach/Team Ratio: Coaches may work with any number of teams and/or individuals. Although some coaches work with a single team, many work with several at a time. Some programs invite any interested students to “try out” for the first Practice Problem, and then continue with students who want to commit to working on the second Practice Problem.

Registered Teams: For each team or individual that is registered, the coach may submit one booklet per problem for evaluation. Coaches who have more than one team working may choose to register all of the teams and send all of the booklets each time, or register one or two teams and send the best one or two booklets for evaluation each time. Additional teams or individuals can be registered at any time up to the set deadline. Coaches may register one team in the fall, and then add to that number if they want to register more. The materials in this booklet may be duplicated and used with any number of students, *but only teams and individuals registered by the January deadline will be eligible for evaluation of the Qualifying Problem and for the Affiliate (State) Competition qualification.*

Team Size: Practice Problems #1 and #2 are designed to teach the FPS process prior to formal competition. Since the maximum number of students allowed to compete on a team at the qualifying competitions is four, most coaches try to maintain teams of four as much as possible, so that students become accustomed to working with this number. However, coaches may structure practice team sizes according to their needs. **Please note, for qualifying competition, there may be no less than three members on a team. Exceptions may be presented to the Affiliate Co-Directors for approval.** Depending on the District, coaches may have the option to bring two additional students with each team by registering them as Multi-Area Global Issues Competitors (MAGIC). Following the booklet writing component, the MAGICs may rejoin their team to participate in the Presentation of Action Plan.

Divisions: Students should participate in the division designated for their grade level. Students may participate in a higher division than their grade, but they may not participate in a lower division (for example, three 9th grade students with one 10th grade student means that team must compete at the senior level).

- **Junior Division** – grades 4, 5, 6
- **Middle Division** – grades 7, 8, 9
- **Senior Division** – grades 10, 11, 12

Team Composition: Team members may vary from problem to problem. Many coaches change teams for each practice problem so that students experience working with many different team members. Assign teams for the Qualifying Problem carefully. Should a team receive an invitation to the Affiliate (State) Competition, it is the four team members whose names appear on the qualifying Problem booklet who are invited to attend. A MAGIC may be substituted in case of emergency, but qualifying team members may not be randomly moved to Individual Competition.