

## Blue Lobster Bowl 2021

[The Blue Lobster Bowl](#) (BLB) is an annual academic competition run by the MIT Sea Grant College Program that encourages high school students to learn about the ocean. Each year, students from high schools throughout Massachusetts\* test their knowledge and to compete. Teams of 4-5 high school students are quizzed on their knowledge of ocean sciences subjects including chemistry, biology, engineering, history, ecology, climate change, and weather, as part of a fun, national quiz bowl program.

The winning 2021 Blue Lobster Bowl high school team will represent Massachusetts in the National Finals Competition, likely virtual in April 2021.

\*This Blue Lobster Bowl *may* include teams from regions that are unable to host their own bowls in 2021.



Preparations are underway for an all-online "virtual" 2021 Blue Lobster Bowl competition taking place on both **Saturday March 6 AND Sunday March 7**. Head-to-head matches will be played like usual, except that Team Challenge questions will be administered in separate groupings on Saturday. Round-robin matches will take place on Saturday, and elimination matches will take place on Sunday.

The Blue Lobster Bowl competition (which includes swag, trophies, and prizes) requires a \$50 registration fee for each competing team. *Financial need waivers are available for Massachusetts teams by application for A and B teams.*

To apply to participate in the 2021 virtual bowl, please BOTH complete a separate Team Intent Form for each one of your school's A, B, and/or C teams. One form per team must be **RECEIVED by December 15, 2020**. Full registration fee payment checks (or application for a financial need waiver) must also be received by 12/15/20 (*but checks will not be deposited until 1/9/21*). Please make checks payable to "MIT Sea Grant" and send check(s) with form(s) to Lori Tsuruda, P.O. Box 120189, Boston, MA 02112-0189. Multiple teams from the same school can combine their forms in one envelope, but we encourage you to send separate checks for each team in case of waitlisting/refunds. (*If express delivery needed, use USPS-delivery only to send to a USPS post office box.*)

Up to 24 teams can compete in the Blue Lobster Bowl each year. If we have more interested teams than we can accommodate, we will accept one team (the "A Team") from every school that has applied. If sufficient space remains, we will then accept all secondary teams ("B Teams"), and then tertiary teams ("C Teams"). *If we cannot accommodate all of the teams in a class (A, B, or C), we will determine competing schools from that class by the earliest date intent forms and checks were received.*

Team coaches will be notified of their respective teams' statuses (competing or waitlisted\* to compete in case there are cancellations) via email by December 18, 2020.

Complete coach and student online registration (*using Eventbrite again*), as well as online signed student and coach consent/releases and medical forms by coaches, will be required by January 29, 2021. You may only register four (4) or five (5) students per team, and there can be no cross-team duplication. All registered students and their coaches must participate in all rounds of this competition and any other activities scheduled for their teams during the competition weekend between 9am and 6pm.

*\*We strongly encourage coaches of waitlisted teams to register students using Eventbrite and to complete their consent/release and medical online agreements also by 1/29/21, and to plan to compete fully in case there are last-minute cancellations.*

Teams of coaches who fail to register themselves and their students fully on Eventbrite by 1/29/21, who do not complete their own online release/consent and medical forms, or whose parents/guardians fail to complete online release/consent and medical forms for all students, canNOT compete in 2021. NO DEADLINE EXTENSIONS can be granted, and so we strongly encourage coaches to collect information early, carefully check for completeness, and enter all of this data carefully and early. *BLB is NOT responsible for any Eventbrite glitches delaying completion.*

Coaches of teams that must cancel their participation should do so as soon as possible, and no later than January 8, 2021. If a coach cancels his/her team's participation by 1/8/21, the team's registration fee will be refunded in full. No refunds will be made if a team cancels after 1/8/21, fails to complete the required online registration and parent/guardian online consents by 1/29/21, and/or fails to participate in the full 3/6&7/21 competition, since it will eliminate other schools' teams' opportunities to compete with them.

Coaches may participate in an **optional coaches' conference call** about the virtual competition structure, rules, and tech requirements on **Friday 11/20/20, 7 pm**, Dial-In#: 1-712-775-7031, Meeting ID: 460-439-415. Later, direct questions to 2021 BLB Regional Co-Coordinator Lori Tsuruda at [Ltsuruda@gmail.com](mailto:Ltsuruda@gmail.com) or office landline (\*82)1-781-963-0373.

## TEAM INTENT FORM for Blue Lobster Bowl 2021

By 12/15/20, Lori Tsuruda must RECEIVE this co-signed form with \$50 registration fee or Financial Need Waiver at P.O. Box 120189, Boston, MA 02112-0189.

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete High School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's First & Last Names \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM**    **A**    **B**    **C**    (circle only one letter)

Registration Fee: *Pick One*    ☐ \$50 check enclosed    ☐ Financial Need Waiver Application enclosed

Each team must have a single, unique, designated coach. This coach must be a teacher or official from the team's school, a school designee, or an employee or official with an education or science program that is sponsoring a team. Coaches must be age 18 or older. No high school students can serve as coaches.

**Coach's** First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years Coaching Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional:* Assistant Coach's Names & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *Optional:* Send us 4 sets of earbuds with microphones to distribute to team members.

As this team's coach, I agree to

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Comply with the official 2020-2021 BLB competition rules.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Serve as the point of contact between my students and BLB/NOSB staff, i.e., communicate on behalf of all students and parents associated with my team

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Collect and keep all student data confidential, and personally enter all required student data online using Eventbrite by 1/29/21.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Ensure that all parents/guardians of competing students and coaches e-sign and print their online consents/releases and agreements by 1/29/21.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* IF this team cannot compete on 3/6&7/21, cancel by emailing Ltsuruda@gmail.com by 1/8/21.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Expressly prohibit my team's students, coaches, and their families from attending/viewing any other regional bowls before 3/8/2020.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Ensure that every team member, including alternate, has a lap- or desk- top computer (No smartphones), headphones or earbuds with microphone, and internet connection.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Expressly prohibit my team's students from being in the same physical room during all competition rounds and the science challenge.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Check in online on behalf of my team as directed for each morning of the competition.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Participate fully online on both 3/6 and 3/7 competition days in 2021.

**Coach's** Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's** Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 2021 FINANCIAL NEED WAIVER APPLICATION

Lori Tsuruda must **RECEIVE** this completed and signed form from each Massachusetts team seeking waiver of \$50 registration fee by 12/15/20 at P.O Box 120189, Boston, MA 02112-0189, for Blue Lobster Bowl 2021.

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete High School Address in Massachusetts: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ % students in poverty/enrolled in federal free and reduced lunch programs

\_\_\_\_ Year for which above percentage was calculated/reported

\_\_\_\_ Optional: Other reason(s) for requesting waiver of \$50 team registration fee:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM**    **A**    **B**    (*circle one team for which you are requesting registration fee waiver*)

**Coach** First and Last Names: \_\_\_\_\_

If my school receive a registration fee waiver, I agree that

\_\_\_\_ *initials* IF this team cannot compete on 3/6&7/21, the coach (*listed above*) will cancel this team's participation by emailing *Ltsuruda@gmail.com* by 1/8/21.

\_\_\_\_ *initials* IF the coach cancel's this team's participation AFTER 1/8/21 and/or my school does not field a **viable team** (*one pre-registered coach and at least 4 pre-registered students*) **that participates as scheduled in the entire 2021 competition on 3/6 & 3/7**, my school will pay a \$50 penalty fee to MIT Sea Grant, due by 4/8/2021.

**Coach's** Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's** Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's** First & Last Names \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's** Email Address \_\_\_\_\_