

## Blue Lobster Bowl 2024

The [Blue Lobster Bowl](#) (BLB) is an annual academic competition run by People Making a Difference (PMD) that encourages high school students to learn about the ocean. Each year, students from high schools throughout Massachusetts test their knowledge and teamwork 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 2024 Blue Lobster Bowl high school team will win a trophy, but NOT represent Massachusetts in any national-level competition (*since none is planned by the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB)*).

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Preparations are underway for another all-online "virtual" Blue Lobster Bowl competition taking place on both **Saturday March 2 AND Sunday March 3, 2024**.

Head-to-head matches will be played in round-robins on Saturday, and then top teams will compete head-to-head in single-elimination matches on Sunday afternoon.

The Blue Lobster Bowl competition (which includes swag, trophies, and prizes) requires a \$50 registration fee for each competing team. *No fee waivers since NOSB cut regional funding by 50% and MIT is not hosting anymore.* ☹

**Apply to Compete** Coaches must complete a separate Team Intent Form for each one of their school's A and (optional) B teams. One form per team AND full registration fee must be **RECEIVED by Thursday, December 14, 2023**. Please make checks payable to "People Making a Difference" and send one check per team with form(s) to Lori Tsuruda, PMD, P.O. Box 120189, Boston, MA 02112-0189. Multiple teams from the same school can combine their forms inside one envelope, but we encourage you to write **separate checks** for each team in case of waitlisting/refunds. (*If using express delivery, use USPS-delivery only to send to a USPS post office box. Do NOT require a signature. Do NOT use FedEx or UPS since they don't deliver to post office boxes.*)

If there are 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"). *If we cannot accommodate all of the teams in a class (A or B), we will determine competing schools from that class by random drawing of teams whose completed intent forms and checks are received by the 12/14/23 deadline.*

Coaches will be notified of their respective teams' statuses (competing or waitlisted to compete in case there are cancellations) via email on December 18, 2023. *We strongly encourage coaches of waitlisted teams to register students online and for coaches and parents/guardians to complete their online consents also by the deadline, and to prepare to compete fully in case there are last-minute cancellations or we recruit additional volunteers so that we can enlarge this bowl.*

**Registrations** Complete coach and student online registration (*using Qualtrics, not eventbrite*); emailed zipped folders containing digital versions of their signed forms; online parent-signed student parental, media, and recruitment consents; and online coaches' media consents will be required from coaches **by January 31, 2024**.

Coaches may only register four (4) or five (5) unique students and 1-2 unique coaches per team, and there can be NO cross-team duplication. At least four (4) registered students and at least one (1) coach/team must participate in all round-robin matches of this competition and any other activities scheduled for their teams 9am to 6pm on Saturday, plus all elimination rounds for which their team qualifies on Sunday afternoon. Teams whose coaches fail to register themselves and their students fully online in Qualtrics or provide zipped folders containing team forms, whose parents/guardians fail to complete online consents for all students, or whose coach(es) fail to complete online consents by 1/31/24, can NOT compete in 2024. NO DEADLINE EXTENSIONS will be granted, and so we strongly encourage coaches to collect forms early, check for completeness, and enter all of this data carefully and early – Registration forms and online links will be provided on 12/18/23. *PMD and BLB are NOT responsible for any computer/internet delays.*

**Cancellations & Refunds** Coaches of teams that must cancel their participation should do so as soon as possible. If a coach cancels his/her team's participation by **1/22/24**, his/her team's registration fee will be fully refunded. No refunds will be made if a team cancels after 1/22/24, fails to complete the required online registrations and online consents by 1/31/24, and/or fails to participate in all of its 3/2/24 assigned competition matches, since other schools' teams will lose opportunities to compete against them.

**Questions** Coaches, NOT students or parents, should contact 2024 BLB Regional Coordinator Lori Tsuruda at [Ltsuruda@gmail.com](mailto:Ltsuruda@gmail.com) or office landline (\*82)1-781-963-0373.

Optional: Coaches may register and participate in an informational **coaches' zoom meeting** about the virtual competition structure, rules, and technology requirements at **3:30pm on Friday 12/1/2023**.

## TEAM INTENT FORM for Blue Lobster Bowl 2024

By 12/14/23, Lori Tsuruda must RECEIVE this co-signed form with \$50 registration fee at People Making a Difference (PMD), 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**   (*circle only one*)

\$50 Registration Fee: *Pick One*    Check enclosed    PayPal to [pmd@pmd.org](mailto:pmd@pmd.org)    Credit Card-Complete next page

Each team must have a 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 educational 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 First & Last Names AND Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional:* I/we have [registered](#) for the coaches' zoom meeting at 3:30pm on Friday 12/1/23.

As this team's coach, I agree to

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Comply with the official 2023-2024 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 by 1/31/24.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Ensure that all parents/guardians of competing students e-sign their online NOSB parental, media, and recruitment consents, plus complete my own online media consent by 1/31/24.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* IF this team cannot compete on 3/2&3/2024, cancel by emailing [Ltsuruda@gmail.com](mailto:Ltsuruda@gmail.com).

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Expressly prohibit my team's students, coaches, and their families from attending/viewing any other regional NOSB competitions before 3/4/2024.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Ensure that every team member has a lap- or desk- top computer that can run Zoom (*NO smartphones or tablets*), headphones/earbuds with microphones, and reliable internet access.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Expressly prohibit my team's students from competing while inside a vehicle and being in-real-life visual or audible contact in the same physical room during all matches.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Expressly prohibit my team's students from concurrently competing in any other competitions during the BLB. Any student competing in another competition will be disqualified from the BLB.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Check in online as directed on behalf of my team at the start of each day that they are to compete.

\_\_\_\_\_ *initials* Participate fully online on Saturday 3/2/24, and on Sunday 3/3/24 afternoon if my team qualifies.

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

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

People Making a Difference® (PMD)  
P.O. Box 120189, Boston, MA 02112  
*www.PMD.org*

### **For Payment by Credit Card**

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_     MasterCard     VISA     Discover     American Express

Complete Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_    3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_    Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing** Street Address, City/Town , State & Zip Code:

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