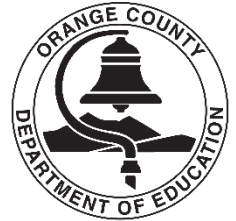




Orange County Department of Education
Educational Services Division
Orange County Academic Decathlon

Calculator Policy



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

I. Decathletes May Use Calculators for the Math Test and Math Super Quiz questions.

If Decathletes wish to use calculators on the Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) Math Test, they are responsible for bringing them to the test. Calculators will not be provided for Decathletes who do not bring their own. **Calculator use is permitted only for Math.** Decathletes will not be allowed to use calculators on any other test.

Teams are required to submit the type of calculator used for each Decathlete including any back-ups used in competition. The back-up calculator may only be used if the primary calculator fails to work during testing. Only the calculator(s) listed for each student at the time of registration are permitted to be used during testing. Coaches are responsible for visually inspecting all calculators to ensure they are permissible according to the criteria indicated below. Coaches must also verify prior to the scrimmage and objective tests that students are using the permissible calculators declared on their registration form.

II. Permissible Calculators

If a Decathlete wishes to use a calculator, it can be a basic, four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, provided it has none of the features listed in Prohibited Calculators. Decathletes who are found to be using a prohibited calculator may be disqualified and/or have their math scores nullified.

III. Prohibited Calculators

Calculators with any of the following features are NOT allowed in OCAD competitions:

- Pocket organizers
- Hand-held or laptop computers
- Electronic writing pads or pen-input devices
- Models with an alphabetic (QWERTY) keypad, **e.g. TI-92 or HP-95**
- Models with paper tape
- Models that make noise
- Models that can engage in wireless communication (transfer data or information with other calculators)
- Models that require a power cord
- Models with CAS (computer algebra systems), **e.g. TI-89, TI-Nspire CAS***

***Exception Note:** United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) has approved the basic TI-Nspire calculator as long as it does not have the (CAS) stamped on the back side of the machine

Because companies are continuously introducing new products, it would be impossible for OCAD to maintain an up-to-date list of specific model numbers that possess these features. Back-up calculators will not be provided to any Decathlete whose calculator is disallowed.

IV. Calculator Failure During a Test

If a Decathlete's calculator stops working during a test, a Decathlete may use a back-up calculator and/or spare batteries brought to the test as noted in section I above. If no back-ups were brought, the Decathlete should continue taking the test without a calculator. A back-up calculator will not be provided, and the Decathlete will not be allowed to take the test again later. A back-up calculator can only serve as a replacement for a calculator that stops working. Decathletes are prohibited from using multiple calculators during a test.