

Rule Change Summary from BQF meeting, May 2026

This document is a change Log – it contains only rules that were created or altered at the 2026 BQF committee meeting.

Item One: Cleanup of typos and small rule issues

Rule VII. B. 5. Amend “quiz is ended” with “*period* is ended.”

- Explanation: The rule in question describes what happens when a QM does not begin reading any part of the reference before the clock runs out. This can occur at the end of the half, overtime or the end of the quiz. The rule was altered last year, but we missed this second place in the rules that needed correction.

Rule VII B. 4. Amend “has read the scripture reference” to “has *begun reading* the scripture reference.”

- Explanation: The rule in question describes what happens when a QM has begun reading the reference, and time expires. As with the previous change, the rule was changed in an earlier meeting, but this second spot in the rules needed correction to reflect the change.

Rule IV. A. 5. Amend to say: “An error should be awarded as soon as *the quizmaster determines* that any incorrect information has been given...”

- Explanation: It is not expected that a QM will always know instantly that a quizzer has committed an error. Sometimes it is necessary for the QM to look at a different part of a verse to see if a word is present, etc. Time should generally NOT be restored just because a QM did not catch an error the instant it occurred. This was being handled in inconsistent ways by different QMs.

Rule VII. C. Amend in two places to read “2025 ESV” instead of “2016 ESV.”

- Explanation: This change was approved at the 2025 meeting. Both major quiz book printers used the 2025 ESV text edition for the gospel of John. This correction should have been made last year, but was overlooked in the official rules.

Item Two: Major Rule changes by category.

Rule Change: Define a standard Jump.

Rule VII. D. 1. Amend to say: “*A standard jump is defined as a jump in which the quizzer has placed the pad on the chair, triggers the light and rises completely off the chair.* The first quizzer

to jump will be called on by the Quizmaster *and must stand up. Once standing, the quizzer may assume any reasonable posture and* answer the question.”

- Explanation: The rules do not define a “standard jump” in any one place. One had to look at several portions of the rules to understand what is considered a standard jump. For purposes of later rule changes in this document, it was helpful to define a standard jump to contrast against a non-standard jump.

Rule change: Rising to full stature (continuous motion rule)

VIII. E. and sub points 1 and 2 amended as follows: Renumber so that they are subpoints of VIII. D. and amend.

- **Old Rule: VIII. E.** If a quizzer’s light comes on (and then goes off) or stays on after the quizmaster finishes saying the word “question,” but the quizzer ~~does not rise to full stature in one continuous motion and attempt to answer the question~~, one of the following must be done: 1. A foul must be awarded if the light came on before the quizmaster read any part of the reference. The question can then be reused, and any quizzer may answer. 2. An error must be awarded if the light comes on after the quizmaster begins to read the reference. The question must then be thrown out.

New Rule: VIII. D. 5. If a quizzer’s light comes on (and then goes off) or stays on after the quizmaster finishes saying the word “question,” *but the quizzer who won the jump has not risen completely off the chair before being fully recognized by the quizmaster*, one of the following must be done:

- a. A foul must be awarded if the light came on before the quizmaster read any part of the reference. The question can then be reused, and any quizzer may answer.
 - b. An error must be awarded if the light comes on after the quizmaster begins to read the reference. The question must then be thrown out.
- Explanation: It was desired to drop the rule requiring continuous motion rise to full stature, as that is very difficult to enforce. It was desired that we preserve the physical activity and effort involved in jumping and removing body weight from the chair. It was also desired that the quizzer rise and stand all the way up before answering. The combination of two rule changes (full stature and standard jump) will preserve a jumping motion, while giving some leeway to various methods of triggering the light (i.e. “leg” jump).
 - **Clarification:** The spirit of the rule is that if a QM reads the question, calls on a quizzer and looks up to see that the quizzer is still basically sitting in their chair, a foul (or error) will be called. It is not the spirit of the rule that a foul or error would be called if the big toe of the quizzer is still touching the chair, or a pants leg is hanging down and still in contact with the chair. The desire is that the quizzer jump in a way that immediately (before being called upon by the QM) removes their body weight from the chair. The

hope is that this will make the effort involved in jumping consistent across all quizzers who use a standard jump.

Rule Change: Split reference clarification

Rule VII B. 7. Amend to say: If a quizzer jumps before the completion of the reference, and fails to complete the reference *correctly before quoting any part of the verse, and before attempting to form a question and answer*, an error is given and time shall be restored to the clock to the time of the beginning of the question.

- Explanation: It was not clear that a quizzer had to complete the reference first and then begin answering a split-reference question. This rule clarifies that and makes it clear that a quizmaster will award an error if a quizzer begins to form a question or answer before completing the reference.

Rule Addition: Coaching Substitution

Create Rule III. B. 1. *If a head coach desires to hand off duties to an assistant coach, the Quizmaster must be verbally notified by either the coach or assistant coach. That assistant coach becomes the effective head coach until the Quizmaster is notified that the original head coach is resuming duties. Changing head coaches is considered a substitution and no challenge may be accepted immediately following a coaching change.*

- Explanation: No mechanism existed for a head coach to pass off duties to an assistant coach in case of emergency, or even a simple desire to give experience to an assistant coach. Assistant coaches are forbidden from interacting with the QM or affecting the quiz directly, so a rule was needed to make it legal for an assistant coach to “take over” if desired for any reason by the head coach. This also opens an avenue for an assistant coach to take over and start the quiz if the head coach is delayed in arriving at the quiz for any reason.

Rule Change: Coach's challenge

Amend Rule part of VIII A. 6. ...If a coach's challenge is not upheld, that ~~each~~ *team* loses the privilege to offer a *coach's* challenge in that quiz.

- Explanation: With the possibility of substituting for a coach, it was necessary to make clear that a team could not obtain an additional coach's challenge by subbing in a new coach after a coach has lost a challenge during a quiz.

Rule Change: Nonstandard jump change

Amend rule VIII. G. 8. *It is expected that a quizzer will use a standard jump as defined in (VII. G. 1.) or as close an approximation as is medically practical.* If a coach has determined a *medical* need for a quizzer to use a non-standard jump during a quiz, the quizzer will use that method throughout the quiz. When the quizzer enters the quiz the first time, the coach must declare the nonstandard jumper to the quiz master. A technical foul will be awarded to the coach if the coach fails to declare the non-standard jumper.

Create rule *VIII. G. 8. a. The preferred nonstandard jump is for the quizzer to sit on the pad and trigger the light without rising off the chair. Quizzer may then elect to answer while seated or rise to answer the question.*

Create rule *VIII. G. 8. b. A finger or foot jump should be used as a nonstandard jump only if no variation of a standard jump is medically practical.*

- Explanation: It was felt that a finger or foot jump gives significant advantages in reaction time and fatigue level for a quizzer. It was desired that a quizzer who needs a nonstandard jump should still be expected to use leg and thigh muscles to perform the jump whenever it is possible for them to do so. Quizzers who have medical difficulty quickly rising to full stature may use a “leg jump” or other variation without standing.

Rule Change: A foul when a captain requests time remaining while the clock is running

Amend VIII. G. 7: Time remaining may be asked for by the captain or coach only when the clock is stopped. *A technical foul is awarded for any of the following requests for time remaining:*

Create VIII. G. 7. a. A request by the coach while the clock is running.

Create VIII. G. 7. b. A request by any quizzer except the captain, at any time.

Create VIII. G. 7. c. A request at any time by any coach not currently designated as a team's head coach.

Create VIII. D. 5 A foul is awarded if a captain requests time remaining, but the clock has not already been stopped for some other reason.

- Explanation: Time remaining requested by a team captain while the clock was running was awarded a technical foul in the past. This was deemed too harsh of a punishment. Time remaining requests made by the captain while the clock is running will now be an ordinary foul (VIII. D. 5.). Time remaining requests by the coach while the clock is running or by any other team member at any time will still be a technical foul (VII. G. 7 subs).

Rule Change: Remove “stalling” rule

Delete VIII. G. 5., renumber 6 – 8.

~~VIII. G. 5 Read 5. *If a team purposely delays giving the correct answers with the apparent intent of stalling to protect a lead in a quiz, that team will be given a technical foul and the wasted time will be restored to the clock.*~~

This will be entirely deleted, and following points renumbered accordingly.

- Explanation: It was felt that the “split reference” rule gives adequate opportunity for teams to come back from behind at the end of a quiz. It was desired by the committee that quizzers should not feel that there is a moral dilemma while trying to make sure the clock runs during their 20 or 30 seconds at the end of the quiz. It was the committee's

intent that this rule deletion be seen as “permission” to use your full time allotted without feeling guilt over clock management even if the quizzer is protecting a lead.