



Everything you wanted to know about the ZAC Tournaments (but might have been afraid to ask)

Key abbreviations

- ZAC Zain Africa Challenge
NQT National Qualifying tournament
ICF International Championship Festival

Picking the Zain Scholars Team

- Q. Can a student from another country be a member of my team?**
A. Yes, as long as they meet the player eligibility requirements.
- Q. I have a player who represented the university at last year's ICF. May they still play at this year's National Qualifying Tournament?**
A. No, all players are limited to one year of international eligibility. Attendance at the ICF ends a player's eligibility. However, players who only attend a NQT remain eligible until they have attended an ICF. In this context, attend means all who attend, not only those who play.
- Q. If I want to make a change to my team roster, what steps are necessary?**
A. Changes may be made until transportation arrangements are finalised. The Liaison must submit all required information and eligibility verification in order to initiate the player change. Changes after this time resulting in the purchase of a new airline ticket will be addressed on case by case basis.

Travelling to a ZAC Tournament

- Q. Must I travel with the team?**
A. Yes, the Coach and/or Liaison must always travel with the team whether by road or air.
- Q. Who pays for the airline tickets, if required?**
A. ZAC headquarters will purchase any airline tickets required. The Coach and/or Liaison is responsible for printing and carrying the itineraries for presentation at the airport. Each member of the travelling group should also be provided with a copy of their own itinerary.

Q. Will ZAC purchase a business class ticket for the Coach and/or Liaison?

A. No, all team tickets will be economy.

Q. I live in or near the city where the tournament is taking place; can I be reimbursed for taxi service or petrol expense?

A. The team is expected to travel together in one or a maximum of 2 vehicles. Yes you may be refunded the cost, as long as the expenditures fall within the guidelines set forth on the travel expense reimbursement form. However, no meals en-route are allowable.

Q. If the NQT is held in my home city, will my team be accommodated at the host hotel?

A. Possibly but not definitely. This is subject to hotel space availability, tournament schedule and budget.

Q. What hotel expenses does ZAC cover?

A. ZAC will pay the room and VAT charges only. No incidentals including and not limited to: internet access, phone charges, room service, laundry, bar tabs, restaurant charges or gym/spa fees will be paid for or reimbursed. Full board is provided at all tournaments for those staying at the hotel, as indicated on the tournament schedule.

Q. Do Coaches and Liaisons have shared accommodations?

A. No, single room accommodations will be provided for the Coach and Liaison. The players are paired in twin rooms by sex.

Q. How and when will I be reimbursed for miscellaneous travel expenses?

A. Upon completion of a travel expense form with full receipts and subject to review by ZAC personnel, you will be reimbursed at the tournament in local currency or USD.

About the Game

Q. How do I choose which three players will compete and in which round?

A. Before each match, the Coach is given a list of the categories in each round and a description. S/he then chooses which player will compete in the Face-Off position for each round.

Q. How long is each round?

A. At the NQT, rounds one through three are timed at 3 minutes each and the Ultimate Challenge is 1 minute for each team. At the ICF, rounds one through three are back-timed to fit in the team introductions, university promo spots, team interviews, etc. and are 3-4 minutes each and the Ultimate Challenge is 1 minute for each team.

Q. Can the Face-Off player interrupt a Face-Off question if they know the answer?

A. No, the lockout signal system is not activated until the last word of the Face-Off question.

Q. Can the Face-Off player interrupt a Bonus question or an Ultimate Challenge question if they know the answer?

A. Yes, but players should be cautioned to confer before doing so as the presenter will accept the first answer directed at him/her.

- Q. In the Ultimate Challenge, why is it that the team that is behind gets to go first?**
A. This is to give the team that is behind first choice of the categories. In any event, both teams will play the Ultimate Challenge.

At the Tournaments

- Q. Will there be practice or warm-up games played at the NQT and ICF?**
A. No, teams should be well practiced before coming to the tournament. Practicing at the tournament has not been shown to improve performance and may be detrimental. Each team will however get a couple of tries at pressing the buzzer to get a feel for the device.

Q. What is the format of the tournaments?

- A.** The NQT format depends upon the number of universities eligible to compete at each country's NQT. For 2009-2010, the formats are:

Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda & Zambia: Each group of 8 universities will play a separate Double Knockout. As Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda all have more than 8 universities; teams will be put into the two pools via a random draw done at the start of the NQT. Any pool with less than 8 teams will have "byes", which are used to fill out a tournament chart, resulting in a "free game" for a team scheduled to play a "bye". Byes will also be randomly drawn.

Sierra Leone: With only 2 universities, constituent campuses have been invited to field a team. As above, it will be a Double Knockout tournament.

At the ICF: This tournament is a Single Knockout. Teams are eliminated after one loss. Teams are power seated based on the statistical results from the NQTs. Pairings avoid, as best as possible, pitting two teams from the same country in the first round.

Q. How are the teams paired at the NQT?

- A.** By a random draw for placement on the chart which is done at the Orientation Meeting.

Q. What happens if a team is not on time for a match at the NQT?

- A.** It is at the discretion of the Tournament Director whether to declare the match a forfeit. For this reason, teams are required to be in a game room the time period before any scheduled match.

Q. If we have a student who requires medical transport, will ZAC cover the expense?

- A.** No, ZAC will not assume the responsibility to transport, but will assist with arrangements. Under no conditions will ZAC pay for any medical care. This is the responsibility of the university or the individual.

Q. I want to buy top up cards to maintain contact with my students; will ZAC reimburse me?

- A.** No, ZAC will not reimburse any university representative for top up card purchases or other mobile phone costs.

Q. Is there a dress code for the tournaments?

A. The dress code for the NQT is business casual. With the exception of the Opening and Closing Banquets the dress code at the ICF is also business casual. For the TV programme, ZAC will supply a shirt for the teams to wear. The Opening and Closing banquets require business attire (shirt and tie for men; pantsuit or skirt set for women). Traditional dress is also appropriate.

Q. Will accommodations be made for special dietary needs?

A. Yes, if ZAC headquarters is informed in advance of the needs and is able to make the accommodation. Vegetarian cuisine will be available at all group meals.

At the International Championship Festival

Q. How are the 32 teams for the ICF chosen?

A. The teams qualify by placing at the top of their NQT. The following is the distribution of teams for the 2009-2010 year:

Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda & Tanzania: the top 2 teams from each of the two 8-team pools will advance to the ICF.

Ghana: The top 4 teams from the single 8-team Knockout will advance to the ICF.

Malawi & Zambia: The top 3 teams from the single 5 to 6-team Knockout will advance to the ICF.

Sierra Leone: Both eligible universities in each country will advance to the ICF.

Extra Draw teams: To complete the 32-team field, 4 teams will be drawn. This plan is tentative and may be revised depending on the number of teams which actually compete at the NQTs. from among the remaining teams in Ghana (5th place team at the NQT), Kenya (3rd place team in each of the two pooled tournament groups), Nigeria (3rd place team in each of the two pooled tournament groups), Tanzania (3rd place team in each of the two pooled tournament groups), Uganda (3rd place team in each of the two pooled tournament groups) & Zambia (4th place team). Only one extra draw team per country may be selected.

Q. If we qualify for the ICF will an invitation be extended to our Vice Chancellor to attend?

A. ZAC headquarters will extend a formal invitation to the Vice Chancellors whose universities are represented at the ICF and will handle accommodations and travel arrangements for them. Airline tickets for flights over 3 hours duration will be booked in business class if requested and available.

Q. If we qualify for the ICF, can others from my university and the students' parents attend?

A. No, the ZAC ICF is a closed event due to security, cost and space limitations.

Q. How will my players be introduced on the TV programme?

A. For consistency, all players are identified by: first name and surname. Players wishing to include their middle name (s) will be accommodated if possible.

Q. Can I change my team roster after the NQT but before the Festival?

A. Yes, as long as the replacement player took the Student Tryout Test and meets all player eligibility requirements.

Q. What do I need to travel outside my country?

A. This depends upon the countries of origin and destination involved. Travel within COMESA countries requires only government issued travel documents. Travel to or outside of COMESA countries by those in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone requires a valid passport and purchase of a visa.

Q. Will ZAC cover the cost of tourist visas?

A. If a visa is required, you will be refunded the expense provided that a receipt or copy of the visa is submitted with the travel expense reimbursement form.

Q. If we qualify for the ICF are we required to stay at the host hotel?

A. Yes. At the ICF all teams are required to stay at the host hotel. Due to security concerns, teams may not leave the hotel without permission. However, various off-site events will be planned to allow the group (as a group) to experience Kampala.

Q. I have colleagues and former students who would like to be a volunteer at the ICF; how do they apply?

A. Only a handful of volunteers are needed. These are generally drawn from among former players who must have graduated from the university and have waited the mandatory 3 post-graduation years. To apply, interested people must complete the online volunteer application.

About the Zain Grants

Q. What grants are being awarded?

A. Grants for 2009-2010 are awarded to all universities and participants (4 students, Coach and Liaison) who compete at either the NQT or advance to the ICF. In addition to travel grants and other prizes, monetary grants are:

Last Round Played	University	Participant
NQT	\$1,000	\$100
Round 1	\$5,000	\$500
Round 2	\$10,000	\$1,000
Quarter-Finals	\$15,000	\$1,500
Semi-Finals	\$25,000	\$2,500
Runner-Up	\$35,000	\$3,500
Champion	\$50,000	\$5,000

Bonus grants earned for Ultimate Challenge wins at the ICF are paid in cash, but are only awarded to the 4 student players.

University grants are used to fulfill educational initiatives or purchase educational materials. Each university works with the Zain operation in their country to determine appropriate item(s) and Zain procures the goods or services.

Participant grants are paid as cash grants via cheque up to the \$1,500/person level. Grants above that level are supplied in the form of laptop computers, Internet enabled mobile phones and educational supplies procured by Zain.

Q. When will I receive my grant?

- A.** Grants are awarded by the Zain operation in each country. It is anticipated that grants to the universities and their participants which are eliminated at the NQT will be awarded at the NQT (participants) and in the few weeks after the NQT (universities).

Due to the need to maintain secrecy of the outcome of the programmes recorded at the ICF, grants to universities and participants who attend the ICF are not awarded until the conclusion of the last broadcast on which a team appears.