



JA Banks in Action

2009-2010 North American Competition

Sponsored by Citi Foundation

Competition Details

2009-2010 Virtual Elimination Rounds

- Round 1, April 19-27, 2010
- Round 2, April 28-May 6, 2010
- Round 3 (only if needed), May 7-17, 2010

Final Face-to-Face Competition

The final contest will be held June 27-30, 2010, in New York City, with three student representatives from the top 10 teams (determined via the virtual elimination rounds) meeting on the financial field of combat for the final round of competitions. The final round will determine the first-, second-, and third-place teams. The cash prizes are as follows:

- First Place: \$1,500 USD per team
- Second Place: \$900 USD per team
- Third Place: \$600 USD per team

JA Banks in Action 2010 North American Competition Overview

This contest is based on the Junior Achievement *JA Banks in Action* program. Student participants will join in the JA Worldwide online JA Banks in Action 2009-2010 North American Competition to see how effective they are at managing a bank. By taking on the role of banking business leaders, they will make corporate decisions to steer their bank to success.

Bank teams will compete with other North American teams for the chance to win first place. The contest will commence June 27-30, 2010, in New York City, with three student representatives from 10 teams meeting on the financial field of combat for the final round of competitions. The final round will determine the first-, second-, and third-place teams.

A Bank Performance Index (BPI) measures success in the program's computer simulation, with each bank's performance based on the following factors: net profit, return on assets, return on equity, loan share, deposit share, and capital ratio. During the simulation, each bank team attempts to achieve the highest BPI possible by setting short- and long-term interest rates for bank deposits and loans. Teams also invest in research and development and marketing to strengthen their position as they compete. At the end of the simulation, the bank team with the highest BPI wins.

Team Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility is limited to Canada, Guam, and United States student teams that are participating in the *JA Banks in Action* program during the 2009-2010 school year. Each JA Member office will be eligible to register **up to five** teams. The selection of those five teams will be determined through locally administered competitions.

Team Goals

Banks symbolize the exciting world of money and finance. In this competition, student teams will operate a bank and take responsibility for managing the entire bank's money. They will learn how bankers make decisions and will practice making similar banking decisions. The most successful teams will be those that create a winning strategy to best serve their customers and increase profits by managing the bank's assets and liabilities against others competing in the market.

VIRTUAL ELIMINATION ROUND STRUCTURE

The virtual round elimination structure is designed to provide equitable regional participation at the final competition in New York City. If you have a team advancing to the qualifying round for the JA Banks in Action 2010 North American Competition, please review the following information. Forward it to your team as soon as possible, as the first elimination round of competition begins on Monday, April 19, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT).

Round 1 Decision Deadlines: Decisions are due by 4:30 p.m. MDT on the due dates listed below. The first elimination round will start on Monday, April 19, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. MDT. The competition will run as one decision per day with Quarters closing at 4:30 p.m. MDT, and the last Quarter closing Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. MDT. Decision deadlines are as follows:

- Decision 1 deadline – Monday, April 19
- Decision 2 deadline – Tuesday, April 20
- Decision 3 deadline – Wednesday, April 21
- Decision 4 deadline – Thursday, April 22
- Decision 5 deadline – Friday, April 23
- Decision 6 deadline – Monday, April 26
- Decision 7 deadline – Tuesday, April 27

NOTICE TO GUAM PARTICIPANTS

Guam is in GMT +10 time zone; therefore, if it is April 19, 9:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time in the United States, it is April 20, 1:00 a.m. in Guam.

Please plan your schedule accordingly.

Round 2 Decision Deadlines: Decisions are due by 4:30 p.m. MDT on the due dates listed below. The second elimination round will start on Wednesday, April 28, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m. MDT. The competition will run as one decision per day with Quarters closing at 4:30 p.m. MDT, and the last Quarter closing Thursday, May 6, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. MDT. Decision deadlines are as follows:

- Decision 1 deadline – Wednesday, April 28
- Decision 2 deadline – Thursday, April 29
- Decision 3 deadline – Friday, April 30
- Decision 4 deadline – Monday, May 3
- Decision 5 deadline – Tuesday, May 4
- Decision 6 deadline – Wednesday, May 5
- Decision 7 deadline – Thursday, May 6

NOTICE TO GUAM PARTICIPANTS

Guam is in GMT +10 time zone; therefore, if it is April 28, 9:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time in the United States, it is April 29, 1:00 a.m. in Guam.

Please plan your schedule accordingly.

Round 3 Decision Deadlines: Should more than 64 teams register for the competition, a third elimination will occur. Decisions are due by 4:00 p.m. MDT on the due dates listed below. If necessary, the third elimination round will begin on Friday, May 7, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. MDT. The competitions will run as one decision per day with the Quarters closing at 4:30 p.m. MDT with the last Quarter closing on Monday, May 18, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. MDT. Decisions dates and deadlines are as follows:

- Decision 1 deadline – Friday, May 7
- Decision 2 deadline – Monday, May 10
- Decision 3 deadline – Tuesday, May 11
- Decision 4 deadline – Wednesday, May 12
- Decision 5 deadline – Thursday, May 13
- Decision 6 deadline – Friday, May 14
- Decision 7 deadline – Monday, May 17

NOTICE TO GUAM PARTICIPANTS

Guam is in GMT +10 time zone; therefore, if it is May 7, 9:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time in the United States, it is May 8, 1:00 a.m. in Guam.

Please plan your schedule accordingly.

The Structure of the Virtual Round

This competition round will have teams competing for the final 10 slots available at the JA Banks in Action 2010 North American Competition. The selection of teams advancing to the face-to-face competition will depend on the following:

- Only 10 teams will be invited to join the final competition.
- First-place and some second-place winners will be invited. Selection of second-place winners will be based on their point spread from the winning team within their round, as space permits.

Competition Logistics

Consider the following key points when preparing for the competition:

- Teams should use the username and password provided and confirmed by the competition administrator. Confirmation e-mail will be sent prior to start of competition.
- Rounds will use the same username, password, and game; however, different parameters may apply.
- Each quarter lasts a minimum of one 24-hour period and may be longer to accommodate weekends and holidays; the manual-close method will be used. Quarters will not be held open for teams that have not entered a decision. It is highly recommended to enter the team decision well in advance of the deadline to allow time to address any IT issues that may arise.
- Students may participate from any location with a high-speed connection. To ensure connectivity and to overcome any firewall issues, it is strongly recommended to use a facility where *JA Banks in Action* has been presented previously.
- In the event you experience any technical problems during competition, please take the following corrective steps:
 - Close and re-open your browser window.
 - Log back in to the competition at <http://banks.ja.org>.
 - To double-check that your internet connection is working, visit another website such as your home page.
- Should you have any further difficulties, call either of the following numbers for assistance:
 - IT Help Desk: helpdesk@ja.org or 719.540.6120 or 1.866.528.4826

What Happens Next?

The top teams from each game in the final competition from the virtual round(s), will qualify to participate in the face-to-face *JA Banks in Action* event in New York City, June 27-30, 2010. Teams will be notified and travel planning will begin immediately after the final qualifying competition.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Which username and password do we use?**
Use the username and password provided and confirmed by the competition administrator.
- **Which game do we choose?**
There will only be one game available to you using the username and password provided by the competition administrator. Select this game, and click the "Play Game" button.
- **Who are we playing against?**
When you sign in to the website and click on the game link, you will be able to view the team names. Teams from across the United States, Guam, and Canada will participate.
- **Who gets to go to New York for the JA Banks in Action 2010 North American Competition?**
Teams that finish first in their final elimination round qualify for the JA Banks in Action 2010 North American Competition. Some second-place winners may be invited. Second-place winners will be selected based on their point spread from the winning team within their round, as space permits.

Team Requirements

1. The registration link is available to JA Associates on the JA Portal in the North American JA Banks in Action folder <http://portal.jahub.org/servlet/portal/serve/28981>
2. . Each JA Member office will be eligible to register **up to five** teams no later than 5:00 p.m. April 15, 2010.
3. Teams may have more than three members competing in the virtual elimination rounds. **However, teams coming to the competition in New York City are limited to three members only.** No substitute players may accompany the team to the face-to-face competition. All substitutions must be made prior to departure from the city of origin.
4. So that all participating students compete within their age groups, students must be enrolled in high school or be a graduating senior from the class of June 2010 (ages 14-18) at the time of the competition.
5. Each team must complete a description and provide a complete list of members to the JA Worldwide Headquarters by April 15, 2010. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Please use the following form for registration found in the North American JA Banks in Action folder on the JA Portal at: <http://portal.jahub.org/servlet/portal/serve/28981>

Prizes and Travel

The following travel scholarships and prizes will be awarded:

- Travel scholarships will be awarded to the top 10 teams. The scholarship covers only the cost of airfare, lodging, meals, and VIP tours.
- Three students and one chaperone from each of the top 10 teams will travel to the final round in June 2010 to compete in person.
- Cash prizes awarded to face-to-face *JA Banks in Action* event winners:
 - First Place: \$1,500 USD per team
 - Second Place: \$900 USD per team
 - Third Place: \$600 USD per team

Rules and Procedures for the Final Face-to-Face Round

The following rules apply:

1. Teams will be divided into competitive groups of five teams each for the first round and second round of competition. Placement in the final championship round will be determined by previous performance.
2. Winning teams in each round will be awarded points according to their placement. The combination of elimination round scores will determine advancement to compete in the final round. Tie scores will result in both teams being placed in the final round. If a tie needs to be broken, Retained Earnings will be used as the measure of success. Should the winning team(s) have a negative BPI score, only 50 percent of placement points for that ranking will be awarded.
3. The *JA Banks in Action* contest is based on Junior Achievement's *JA Banks in Action* software program.
4. During the competition, students will be supplied with computers with Microsoft Office software, blank paper, pencils, and calculators. Students will not be allowed to bring their own calculators, computers, or any notes, handouts, etc.
5. Only registered team members and approved staff will be permitted to enter the competition area. Observers, chaperones, and guests, will be restricted to a designated area.
6. To ensure fair play and to make sure sound business decisions are made by the team/bank, the contest administrator, acting as the banker, reserves the right to intervene in cases where it is believed collusion, price-fixing, or cartel development is occurring.
7. All six decisions must be made each period.
8. The Bank Performance Index (BPI) determines the winner within each simulation group. The *JA Banks in Action* Performance Index (BPI) is a composite score based on the measurement of a bank's performance with regard to a weighted average of these six components: net profit, return on assets, return on equity, loan share, deposit share, and capital rate.
9. Decision limits for Short-Term Deposit Interest Rates, Short-Term Loan Interest Rates, Long-Term Deposit Interest Rates, Marketing, and Research and Development (R&D) will be set for each round.
10. Decisions submitted for which there are insufficient funds will not be altered by the contest administrators.
11. Decisions from the previous period automatically will be repeated for teams that do not turn in decisions by the stated deadlines.
12. A Bank Report and an Industry Report can be downloaded from the website. Students will not be provided with paper copies of the reports during the competition.

JA Banks in Action 2009-2010 Competition Details

13. Each bank receives an Industry Report and a Bank Report after each round of decisions. Standard interpretive comments do not appear on reports.
14. Each period represents three months or one quarter of a year.
15. Scoring will be based on the accumulation of placement points. This is a multi-elimination round competition. Teams will receive points based on ranking at the end of each round. Points will be awarded for first-, second-, and third-place winners. In the case of a tie, the value of the retained earnings in the last period will be used to determine the winner. The total number of ranking points will determine the competition winner. In case of a tie at this level, the value of the retained earnings in the last period will be used to determine the winner. The team with the highest total will be declared the winner.
Note: Teams that have a negative BPI at the end of any round will only be awarded 25 percent of the possible ranking points for the top three winners.
16. Students are allowed to compete on ONE team only per year. If a student is found to be competing in two or more teams, that student and the teams in which that student is participating will be automatically disqualified.
17. Each team must complete a description and provide a complete list of members to the JA Worldwide Headquarters by the registration deadline. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Team member changes occurring without prior written notification to JA Worldwide or the *JA Banks in Action* administrator may be grounds for disqualification.
18. Finalists from previous years are not eligible to compete in the final round.
19. Only three members per team may compete in the final round.
20. Age restrictions: High School students must be between the ages of 14 and 18 at the start of the contest. Students may exceed this age limitation during the progression of the competition period.
21. The contest travel prize covers only the cost of airfare, meals, lodging, and VIP tours for the three competing members of a team and one chaperone.



Citi Foundation

