



# The Mid North Coast Regional da Vinci Decathlon



## da Vinci Decathlon - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Below are a number of questions that have been asked by schools preparing for the da Vinci Decathlon. If you have another question, not listed here, please contact Chris Delaney, Director of the Innovation, Creativity and Excellence Centre ([c.delaney@scas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:c.delaney@scas.nsw.edu.au))

### **Do we need to send an accompanying teacher?**

Yes – all teams need an accompanying teacher who is responsible for the students. They should have indemnity forms and contact information for the students in their care.

### **What will the teachers do when they are there?**

During the first session, there is an opportunity for teachers to hear a speaker or network with others from the participating schools. Teachers are asked to fill out a form indicating their preference for involvement in marking tasks, supervision and judging. A roster will be drawn up allocating teachers to teams for these tasks.

### **Who marks the tasks?**

In most disciplines, teachers from participating schools will mark the tasks. This is under the supervision of the adjudicator for the day. Teachers are in teams representing different schools so that no staff member will be asked to mark their own school's response.

### **Can we form a composite team if two of our teams participate in the regionals but only one qualifies for finals?**

No. The team identity is an important aspect of the da Vinci Decathlon. It is expected that the team that qualifies will be the one that competes in the State final (and in the National competition). The only exception is where a student becomes unexpectedly unavailable. In such cases, the school may be allowed to substitute another student. The Decathlon coordinator should be notified as soon as such a situation arises.

### **Can we take photographs?**

Staff should be aware of potential restrictions on photographing children. Photographs of your own team are allowed as long as they don't interfere with the running of the event – but you are asked to be careful in doing so. A large group photo of all participants is sometimes organised if there is time. Staff are welcome to take photos then.

### **Can parents come to watch?**

There is very little to see while the tasks are running. Parents are welcome to attend the final presentations on the day when the best of the Creative Producers will be performed and awards announced and presented.

### **Can accompanying staff watch?**

Staff are welcome to observe during the event. However, they are not permitted to approach their team's table.

### **How can we best prepare students for the Decathlon?**

A sample pack of resources including some past tasks is available on the St Columba Anglican School website at [www.bit.ly/mncdavinci](http://www.bit.ly/mncdavinci). Working through these is useful. Team work is a key element of preparation so some time spent on team building is well spent. Students should be encouraged to take responsibility for allocating tasks and managing their time during the event so some discussion of how they will do this is advisable.

### **How does it work – where do the students sit and how do they get tasks?**

Students in the team are allocated a table. They are allowed to move around the table and change seats as they change who they are working with. For some tasks like Creative Producers and Engineering, a couple of the team members may be directed to go to another part of the room to complete that task. All tasks for a session will be put on the table at the start of the session. It is then up to the team to determine who will do what and how much time they will spend on each item. They are allowed to take sets of sheets apart to split up a task as long as they make sure that all sheets are returned at the end of the session.

### **What happens if students do not understand a task or wish to ask a question?**

Students may ask questions of clarification of the person in charge of the room at the time. Matters requiring adjudication will be referred to the event adjudicator. No teacher may answer questions from their own school.

### **How many students should do Creative Producers?**

It is up to the team to decide how many will participate in CP. However, we recommend that no more than 4 or 5 go out as this may be a disproportionate allocation of people when there are other tasks to complete in the session. Also, it is difficult to coordinate a larger group of actors with the limited time available for the task (15-20 min).

### **Are calculators allowed?**

Calculators are allowed except during mathematics.

### **Are students allowed to bring notes or reference books?**

No.

### **What if a team wants to protest a decision or bring something to the attention of the judges?**

Any query should be addressed to the adjudicator immediately as a problem arises. The adjudicator has discretion in these situations but may consult with other staff before making a final decision. No action can be taken if a matter is raised after the event.

### **What should students bring?**

This should be checked with your regional management plan but in general, students will need:

- pens, pencils, ruler and calculators
- scissors
- art supplies - pastels, coloured pencils