

# UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON®

## RATIONALE FOR NON-RELEASE OF USAD® COMPETITION EXAMS

POLICY ESTABLISHED - DECEMBER, 1988  
UPDATED AND REAFFIRMED - JUNE, 1991

The rationale for the non-release of the competition tests is as follows:

1. **Educational Viability of the Competition** - The use of repetitive focused test items as a means of preparation for the Academic Decathlon undermines the educational viability of the learning process that USAD® intends to stimulate and is therefore strongly discouraged.
2. **Equity** - Some states have State Directors and team coaches who are extremely intense and pro-active in their preparations. In other states, the Director position may not even be filled.

Consequently, when tests are released, teams from the "power states" have all of the tests and teams from many states have never seen one. These teams feel that the release of these tests has been unfair and discriminatory.

Also in many cases these tests are given only to the state championship team who is preparing for the nationals. The non-winning teams in the state then feel that this practice is unfair to them and perpetuates the dominance of the winning schools.

3. **Practice Test Booklet** - The publications of the Practice Test Booklet makes access and preparation equal throughout the country whether a team's initial competition is in November or March.

The order form for the Practice Test Booklet is in the Study Guide, thus bypassing inequities in networking through the State Director. Also, publication of the Practice Test Booklet is consistent with standard test practices where one form only of an annual set of tests is released for preparation purposes.