

Housing Questions

As we plan our trip, our parents would like to know:

- Does Maryland request housing in dorms or hotels?
- We will probably have 5 kids and 5 parents going to Globals. Can all the parents stay with the children if they pay the full registration fee for themselves and their child?

We're trying to keep all the kids together, but they are quite young.

You can have as many people as you would like stay with the kids. We don't have a choice regarding whether we are in dorms or hotels. But, I would recommend you take whatever housing MD gets - since that is part of the fun for the kids! If adults stay with the kids -they purchase the same package as the kids.

Parents that don't stay with the team will want to purchase event passes with meals so they can eat with the team. It is highly recommended that the parents stay with the team so the TM has help with the kids and so that the parents are able to enjoy all that Globals has to offer.

Our school is requiring that we bring two additional school personnel. This will give us 6 team members, 1 manager and two adult chaperones. I can group the kids in two rooms but I do not want to stay in a room with two other adults that I do not know. I have requested on the reservation form that I have a private room in the same building as the kids and I will pay any additional fee for this. Do you know if this can be done?

I understand that you would want your own room. Unfortunately, there is just not enough room to accommodate one person per room. If you do want your own space I have to refer you to Family and Friends to make your own housing arrangements. Family and Friends sets you up with a group rate at a local hotel, but you will not be housed with the team and will not have the convenient campus transportation system. See <http://www.globalfinals.org/family-friends/>.

Another option is to bring air mattresses that will allow more kids per room, thus freeing up rooms for the adults.

When the housing assignments are given, are they going to give us a certain number of rooms and then we figure out who will go where? I also have 5 parents who have paid for the housing/meal package so there are a total of 14 people in my group to be housed; are we all going to be together? What if we specified on the registration we would prefer a hotel?

Your team will be given a block of rooms within fairly close proximity. It will be up to the team manager to determine who stays in which room. It is highly recommended that teams bring air mattresses, pillows and bedding to allow more flexibility in room assignments. There are air mattresses available, but they may be in limited supply.

You can request a hotel if you have a large group. If the team requests a hotel, it is highly likely that the team will not be housed with the other MD teams, which can be a disappointment to the kids.

I have a question about Hotel housing. I have a team member with severe asthma, which per her doctor's request, requires us to stay in a hotel, as we have the last few years. This year I am less one girl. I have a team with 2 boys (which will have my husband in the room as a paid supporter) and 4 girls, (which will have me in the room).... My question is this...will we only be allowed 2 rooms for 8 people in a hotel as well? The girls on my team are not "little girls" and I was wondering if we would only be allowed 1 room for 5 of us?

Teams are assigned to hotel rooms based on 3 per room. For eight people, you will get 2 rooms in a hotel. If you had just one more person, you would get 3 rooms. If there is another team you're friendly with you can do a housing request to be housed near that team – then you'll have more rooms you can mix and match with. But that team will also need to request hotel housing.

For five people in a room they will bring in cots if needed. I know it sounds tight, but we have a lot of teams to house and this has proven to be the best way to make sure we can fit everyone.

Are there rules for chaperones and the elementary aged as far as male chaperone with boys, etc.?

We do not regulate chaperones and gender issues. Your school/district may have guidelines, though. The only thing we require is 1 team manager per team. If you have 2 teams, there must be 1 adult assigned to each team.

With 6 team members, and 2 managers it looks like we would get 3 rooms. We will need a third adult to pay for one of the housing/meal packages if we want an adult in each room. Do we have to know for certain which parent is the third adult by the registration deadline, or is that something that can be determined closer to the event as long as we have a paid package for a third adult?

You can add that person as soon as it's determined. The April 16th deadline is for teams to make their initial deposit and provide some team members' information. This lets us know you are really intending on coming. You can make changes (additions/cancellations) in the system until May 2nd, 11:59 pm EDT. Starting May 3rd, all requests must be sent via email to globals@dihq.org or faxed to 856-881-3596. Changes after May 6th will be done onsite at registration when the TM checks in the team. Late and cancellation fees will be charged for changes made after May 2nd.

I have a team of four boys and one girl (my daughter). I have another team mom who may attend so that we can have two females together, if needed. What can you provide about mixed sex rooming...can my daughter and I share a room? Or should we expect males and females to be on separate floors?

That's a great question. DI does not consider gender when assigning rooms. So it is possible that genders may be mixed in rooms. The dorms are not segregated by gender. Again, bringing air mattresses, etc. will help with this situation. You can cram more boys into one room so the females will not have to share a room with the boys.

Another option is to find another team with the gender you are short on. In your case, you need a team with girls. If the team agrees, you can request to be paired with that team for housing so that you can use all the rooms to make the necessary gender adjustments. The other team will also have to specify your team when registering. If you need me to send out a message to the other teams to see if anyone is willing to be paired with your team, just let me know.

Sally@marylanddi.org

If we register 6 kids and 3 adults, can the adults rotate out of the dorms? We have two Moms who are each available to chaperone ½ of our stay. Do they have to each pay the full registration price, or can they switch off staying in the dorm?

When one of the mothers leaves and the other comes, the late arrival just needs to go to TRECS to get credentials. Bring the credentials of the departing mother with you. Please make sure you put these notes in Special Requests so we are expecting the switch.

Can we switch out kids? We have one child on the team who will be staying off campus with parents for 2 nights. Can a sibling (not on the team, but who has a meal pass) stay in the dorm in place of our absent team member?

No, this is not allowed.

Is it possible for a Mom to have a toddler stay with her in the dorm, and do we have to pay the full registration price for the toddler?

Children who are 4 years old or under are free of charge. However, they will need to stay in a bed with the parent. In other words - they don't get their own bed. Bring an air mattress, pillow and linens if sharing a bed is not desired.

One of our team members has to leave Globals on Friday for a soccer tournament, so we will request a central challenge for Wednesday or Thursday. The question is about their accommodations and pricing. If they choose a full housing/meals package, will they be pro-rated?

The packages are not pro-rated. They all run through Saturday night. So if a team member needs to leave early, they still have to pay as though they are staying through Saturday night.

Will teams be in rooms next to each other? (trying to figure out if we need a male chaperone in with the boys)

Team rooms will be close to each other, but there is no guarantee they will be next door.

There are two teams from our school attending Globals. How can we make sure that the teams are housed close to each other?

During the registration process, you will be given the opportunity to designate other teams that you want to be housed with. However, the other teams must also designate your team in order for DI to comply with the request. They do not need to be teams from your school – they could be teams with older siblings on your team, teams from the same region, or whatever you wish. As long as all teams indicate all the other team numbers that they want to be housed with, the request will be granted. Combining with other teams gives teams much more flexibility with room configuration.

I see that closing ceremonies occur on Saturday afternoon. Does that mean that everyone stays in their housing through Sunday morning and everyone leaves Sunday morning or is everyone leaving after the closing ceremonies on Saturday night?

Most people stay until Sunday morning. After closing, there are parties for the different age groups - An elementary party and a Teen party. If teams want to leave after the ceremony, they can, but they'll miss all the fun.

Are teams required to purchase a minimum number of All-Inclusive Registration Packages?

Yes. Teams that are staying on campus must purchase the number of all-access packages equal to or greater than the number of team members plus one team manager. If they don't do that, they must also purchase one of the bulk Event Passes for \$3,750 or \$4,750. It doesn't matter who uses the aa-access packages – can be team members, managers, parents, etc. If the entire team decides to stay off campus it must purchase one of the Event Passes with lunch or all meals. Some exceptions may be made for very small teams or teams that are self-managed by adult team members and are not travelling with a team manager. Email ask@dihq.org to ask if your team qualifies for an exception.

What is the price if the parents only want to walk around with the kids on campus for the three days?

If the parents just want an Event Pass and not the lunches for the entire event, the cost is \$95. If they want lunches, too, the cost is \$175. The daily price is \$25 and \$45.

Registration

Is there a "registration" fee for globals or is that taken care of by MD DI?

The registration fee is included in the all-inclusive packages. As long as a team purchases a number of all-inclusive packages that equals the number of team members plus one team manager, the registration costs are covered. If a team doesn't purchase that number of housing

packages or decides to stay off campus, it must purchase one of the registration packages without housing, which are either \$3,750 or \$4,750. MD DI does not pay for globals teams. I wish we could - but we do not have that money in our budget.

Is the \$1500 deposit like a registration fee or will it go towards our total cost?

It goes towards the total cost.

We have a \$1500 deposit due by April 16th to secure a spot at Globals, but then it says the final payment is due by May 2nd but does not say what that payment is. Do you know how much we will have to pay by May 2nd?

It depends on when you arrive in Knoxville and what packages you purchase for everyone. Take a look at the registration package choices at <http://www.globalfinals.org/pricing/> .

Do the Team Managers get confirmation of payment after they register?

The team manager gets immediate confirmation if there is a credit card payment done online. If they mail in a check/purchase order, the team manager will not get a confirmation when it's posted, but they can log in and check the status.

I'm working on my team's on-line registration. I've completed everything up to the payment page. I presume, therefore, that simply paying \$1500 in the regular payment form is how we cover our deposit. Correct?

You are correct. You use the Pay tab, and just enter \$1500.00 to cover your deposit. If you want to go in and apply another credit card payment later, you can do so using the same steps. If you choose to send a purchase order you can fax it to 856-881-3596, or mail it to

**Destination ImagiNation
Attn: Global Finals
1111 S. Union Ave
Cherry Hill NJ 08002**

Does the \$1500.00 deposit have to be paid with a credit card? The school sent a check for states and I think this is probably the way it was planning to handle it. The paper says to send to DI Inc in New Jersey. *Is there an address?*

You can pay by check, purchase order or money order. Send the payment to the above address.

Last week I went to the site and applied the PO payment. Today I went back to the site to make an additional payment and noticed that the PO payment is not showing up. Are they waiting to actually receive the PO before applying to account? Did this mess up our \$1500 deposit?

The only payment to show up immediately is a credit card payment - otherwise, it takes a little while to process. They do need to receive the signed purchase order before they can apply it. Once it's applied it will show up as a purchase order. Your purchase order can be applied as a deposit – it will reserve your spot. It does not need to be a check/credit card payment in order to reserve.

I tried to register our team on the Global website, but when I click the register button, it won't take me any further. Do I need to do anything else at this point other than let you know? Just want to make sure I don't miss any deadlines.

You have to confirm your attendance by clicking on the link provided in your email before you can register. If you did not receive your email let your AD (Sally) know at sally@marylanddi.org .

We have registered 6 team members and 3 adults, with housing packages, plus several other parents with just meal plans. Now we have a child who has decided he will not be staying on campus, but rather with his parents. My question is this: does each team member have to buy a housing package in order to participate? It would be cheaper for him to buy just meals, and we would still have 8 full price registrants (5 kids, 3 adults). Or, does every team member have to buy a housing package in order to avoid having to purchase the \$3,750 event pass? Thanks!

To avoid having to purchase one of the bulk Event Passes without housing (Either \$3,750 or \$4,750) a team must purchase the number of All-inclusive packages equal to the number of team members plus one manager. We don't regulate who they are assigned to, so if spectators purchase housing packages, they count toward the total. So if your team has 7 team members, it would be required to purchase 8 All-inclusive packages. Your team member staying with his mom can purchase an event pass with meals.

I know that our team will be going to Globals, but what I don't know is whether all my team members will go. Do you have to have a commitment from every team member before April 16th, or can I say "yes" we're going, but not sure if all of us are going?

You can make changes up until the May 2nd deadline, so just confirm that the team is going to Globals by making the initial \$1500 deposit and firm up the details by May 2nd .

I would like to arrive in Knoxville with my daughter on Monday, but the rest of the team can't come until Tuesday. Will I be able to check in just myself and my daughter on Monday and go back to TRECS to register the rest of the team when it arrives?

Team members, managers and supporters must all purchase the same Registration Package if they are staying in UT housing. So if you want to arrive on Monday without the rest of the team, all people in your group must purchase a package starting on Monday. Since there is just a \$25 per person price difference for the additional day, it may be well worth it for you to arrive to get your rooms, get acclimated and avoid the longer registration lines on Tuesday.

Our team's funding is going to come, in part, from several different sources within the school system (gifted program, principal's fund, superintendent's fund, etc.). None of these folks can write a check to an individual and all have to get receipts to show where the money went. Can that be worked out?

Yes. The payment tab has a hyperlink for [Click Here to print an invoice](#). That invoice will show all payments posted, the amount and the payer name and the balance due. The checks should be made out to Destination Imagination Inc, and should have the team number in the memo line.

Can we make multiple payments until the May 2nd deadline? The rationale is that then each parent can use his/her own credit card to pay a portion of the full amount until the entire amount is paid. Can that be done?

Absolutely. They'll go to the same site the TMs use to register and log in and make a payment. Or they can give their credit card info to the TM to make the payment. They need to know the team number in order to have it applied correctly.

If our team has made the deposit of \$1500.00 and can't raise the final amount will they be able to get their money back?

First, let me say that I have never had a Maryland team fail to raise the funds necessary to pay for a trip to Globals. Maybe the money doesn't come in before the registration deadline, but some creative financing has always allowed the teams to make the trip.

However, if a team or individual needs to cancel for whatever reason, DI's policy on that is as follows:

Team Cancellation

It is very important that all attendees are properly registered by May 2nd, 11:59 p.m. EDT. If the entire team cancels before that date, DIHQ will refund all registration fees except 50% of the \$1500 deposit (i.e., \$750). After May 2nd, no refunds will be issued.

Individual Cancellation

Changes can be made to individual housing and meal packages until May 2nd, 11:59 p.m. EDT. After May 2nd no refunds will be issued for individual registration package cancellations.

Cancellation must be submitted by the Team Manager via e-mail to globals@dihq.org or fax to (856) 324-4371. After May 6th, cancellations can only be made in the Registration and Orientation Area at TRECS in Knoxville.

Event Passes, Event Passes with Lunch, and Day Passes are not refundable after May 2nd.

The team manager has an unavoidable schedule conflict for Wednesday and Thursday. If possible, she would like her team's competition days for Instant Challenge and Central Challenge to be scheduled for Friday and Saturday. In her absence from GF, she would like to appoint one (or perhaps more) of the team parents to be assistant TM(s). The assistant TM(s) would be registered at the tournament with the same housing package as the team members, and would perform all chaperoning and other TM duties until the TM's arrival. Please advise on how to proceed.

You need to log in to the registration system and do 2 things to best meet these needs:

- 1. On the Team Info tab, select another adult to enter as "other". Do this by clicking on the Modify tab. This person should be added to the Attendees tab with a role of Alternate Team Manager. If you choose to have more adults accompany you, the rest will need to have Spectator credentials.**
- 2. On the Special Requests tab, put a note in under Schedule that you have specific dates that the team will need to do their team challenge and instant challenge. Our schedulers will see these dates and work around them.**

My team shows as not registered, but I input all the required information?

Could be:

- Did not click RESERVE button – AND/OR**
- You entered all the people and made a \$1500.00 payment, but haven't supplied an emergency contact number or an official event business contact number. That is keeping you from going into Reserved status.**
- Make sure you enter Arrival Days for all of the attendees**

Donations

How can businesses and individuals make tax deductible donations to help with our team expenses?

The best way to handle donations is to have checks made payable to your school's PTA/PTO or to the school. Please read the disclaimer in the section below regarding the tax deductibility of donations to DI Inc. The same issues apply to payments made to your school or PTA/PTO. If a donation is made to help reduce the Globals cost for the child, grandchild or relative of the donor, the donation is generally not deductible. Donors should check with their tax expert to determine tax deductibility.

Another option is to make a donation to Destination Imagination, Inc. for the team's benefit. See <http://www.globalfinals.org/sponsor-a-team/> . However, it should be noted that such donations can only be applied to DI charges and can't go towards things like transportation, pins, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Destination Imagination Inc (DII) is a 501c3 corporation. When donations are made to Destination Imagination Inc. for a Global Finals Team, it is considered a 'restricted donation'.

For DII to accept a donation, it must be in the form of a check made payable and mailed to Destination Imagination Inc, have the word 'donation' on it, the team number and the event, "Global Finals 2017" on the check. DI can accept any amount.

The donations that DI Inc. receives for specific teams can only be used for charges from DII for that team. The charges are the registration and housing packages. In all cases, the donations must be received in the same time schedule as non-donation payments. Pledges are not donations.

I use the following to try to explain different donation scenarios.

The most likely scenario is as follows. Assuming a team's housing packages cost \$5600, and the team raises donation checks to DII of \$2000, then the team owes \$3600. The team would pay \$3600. The donors have paid \$2000.

If the packages for the team total \$5600, and the team raises donation checks to DII of \$6000, then the team does not owe DII. However, DII does not send the \$400 to the team. DII, as a 501c3, must prove that the restricted donated funds were spent in accordance to their 501c3 status, and if DII sent the overage back to the team, DII could not control how the funds are spent.

If the team raises donations to DII of \$5000, packages total \$5600, and the team has paid \$2500 already, then it is a timing difference and DII would refund the team \$1900.

Without going deep into non-profit taxes, "donations over the DII charges can cause issues." DII can't take in donation money and send it back to a team. It can only refund the money the team has paid.

Whether a taxpayer's donation would be considered a charitable donation by the IRS is ultimately the responsibility of the IRS and the taxpayer. For charges that originate from Destination Imagination Inc, such as Global Finals charges or Team Number purchases, we ask that the donor write a check payable to Destination Imagination Inc, and identify the team and team number that it is to be applied to. Destination Imagination Inc will apply the funds accordingly. Since we cannot determine the relationship of the donor to the beneficiary, in the case of Global Finals, a team, it would be up to the donor to determine if it is truly a charitable gift, or it is simply a payment for services. For instance, and as we understand it, a parent who pays for their child to attend an event would not be eligible to take the payment as a donation. If the taxpayer is truly a third party, then the donation would be eligible as a charitable donation on the third parties' tax return. The relationship of the donor to the beneficiary is key. Ultimately, the donor's tax return is their responsibility.

Since DII's staff guards the Destination Imagination Inc's status as a non-profit for our community at large, a reasonable review has to determine that the check is a donation and not a payment from a parent or guardian. Individuals and corporations are responsible for their own tax returns, and ultimately, the IRS will determine if the donation is allowed.

Hope this helps your team, and of course we always encourage our teams to let the donors know how they did, along with a 'Thanks' for their support,

Scheduling Issues

I have one team member who is committed to a travel soccer tournament on Saturday & Sunday. Is it possible to request a Thursday performance at Globals for my team? Her role is critical to the CC; the team can muddle through IC with only six.

Yes – when you register you can make a special request.

What do we need to do to make a scheduling change after the final registration date?

You will need to make that request when you register your team on-site.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Do you know how tight we are in the seating at opening ceremonies?

Each team receives 9 tickets in their packet - to sit in the Maryland section. Any extra people need to sit in General seating. Each of these people would need to have an Event Pass to get in. We hate to break up teams, but this is the only way to assure we can fit everyone fairly. They can give the 9 tickets to whoever they want, though. If other teams are not using all of their 9 tickets, you can use their extras.

What should my team bring with them to the ceremonies?

Teams should bring the foam batons that they were given at the States award ceremony. Team members and supporters should wear their MD DI t-shirts. Teams are free to bring other light ups as well. Team banners or flags are not appropriate for the ceremonies. Please make sure that teams do not bring pins to trade at the ceremonies. Pin trading is not permitted there. Also do not bring back packs and other large bags, as security is tight at the arena. There are new security policies in force this year that will allow only clear plastic bags of limited size in the Arena. See <http://www.globalfinals.org/new-bag-policy-for-global-finals/> .

Events

Will the Duct Tape Ball be held this year? Is DI supplying any materials? I was wondering if the costume is created before the "Ball" or during.

No. The Duct Tape Ball has been replaced by the Costume Ball, which will be on Friday night from 7:30 to 9:30. Teams do need to supply their own costumes. DI is not supplying materials. The team should have fun with this!!

If a team member's sibling comes to globals are they allowed to join in with the activities that the team is participating in? For example... pins? Is there a cost associated with that?

Anyone with an event pass can participate in any of the age appropriate events. The only cost of pin trading is the cost of the pins.

What's the high school and college graduation all about?

A graduation ceremony for anyone graduating from high school or college this year will be held on Thursday evening. This event started out as a way for kids who were missing their graduations while at Globals to celebrate their milestone. But it has evolved into a huge and meaningful event for any grad who wants to celebrate in DI style. Info is available at <http://www.globalfinals.org/events/graduation/>.

Will there be the after parties on Saturday night – after Closing Ceremonies - for the teams?

Yes, there are two parties on Saturday night – one for kids under 13 years old and one for older kids.

Check the Globals website www.GlobalFinals.org for updates on events and other information.

Field Trips

I have a question about off-campus tours. How would I go about registering for them if I don't know a time/date of our challenges?

Registration for off-campus tours will begin after the challenge schedules are released. This allows teams to select tours that jive with their schedules. You will be able to purchase the tours at www.shopDI.org.

However, we advise against paying for these trips. Save the money, buy some pins, and stay on campus to enjoy all the Globals activities.

Event Passes and Meals

If Parents and supporters buy the event Pass without the meals, can they pay cash in the dining hall if they want to eat the occasional meal with the team?

Meals are NOT for sale at the dining halls, but there is a downtown area within walking distance where they can go to purchase food. There are a few snack vendors (popcorn, dippin' dots, etc.) that are onsite, but nothing you would consider a meal. If they want to eat with the team they should purchase a meal plan.

If we decide to stay in non-DI supplied or DI friends and family housing and not purchase the meal plan, can we just purchase meals on site as needed?

No - you cannot eat the meals without a specific type of event pass - it will indicate the type of package you purchased. Each person gets a colored wristband that matches the assigned dining hall and has the registration packet encoded in it - that is what allows you or anyone to eat the meals.

If we do not stay on site, how do we go about getting passes for the parents? What do they cost?

You should purchase event passes for parents when you register online. You can purchase them when you arrive on site, but they are more expensive. Details on the passes are provided in the Global Finals Guide and at www.globalfinals.org .

I have a family with grandparents in that area who would like to come for the day. How do I go about buying passes for one day for them?

You can purchase Event passes in advance in the registration system. If you purchase them on site - there is a \$5 fee on site at Registration. They would probably want Day Pass, which is a one day pass that does not include meals.

Transportation to Knoxville

Is there a bus that travels to Knoxville?

There is a bus service that has incredible rates to Knoxville. I thought it may be too good to be true so I checked it out and found that Megabus.com has \$15 fares from Washington, DC to Knoxville. The price goes up as the date draws nearer. It is approx a 9.5 hour trip. Megabus also runs from Baltimore to DC, so a connection can be made to the Knoxville bus. This is a good option for older team members or supporters who have schedule conflicts that prevent them from travelling with the team.

Transportation at UT

Will there be shuttles to and from competition and housing sites?

Yes, they have great bus service on campus. You will get all that info at registration. You should be able to park your car for the duration of the event and use the shuttles.

Corporate Sponsors

One of our team's fundraising ideas was to allow a corporate sponsor to buy advertising space on our prop bus that we use in our main challenge. It would not alter the budget adversely and it would neither add nor subtract to our solution in any way I can think of. I can't find anywhere in the rules prohibiting this but I thought I better ask before seeking a sponsor to do this.

This is fine since you are not selling the brand name. BUT teams should check the challenge to be sure this does not violate any challenge requirements. Sometimes teams put corporate sponsors on their team t-shirts too, as long as it is not the affiliate t-shirt.

Cost

My parents have been questioning the general expense and value of Global Finals. I told them that I thought renting the stadium and all the classrooms and paying the food people etc. at a university really would be expensive and that I didn't think DI was trying to be unfair, and I have told them that I really loved Globals so much that I asked my husband to not plan a trip to Disney but save the money in hopes that we could go because I like Globals more than Disney World. Unfortunately my parents know that I love DI more than most people as evidenced by the fact that my house is completely torn up for 6 months out of the year. (They think I am biased) I'm not sure they would trust you either since you work for DI, but is there anything you could say that addresses this issue.

It's a great question!! You are correct. Having a tournament or any event at a university is VERY expensive. In fact, the state tournament at UMBC costs over \$30,000 just for one day! And - that is without housing or providing food for 240 teams plus supporters!

Most of the costs of GF do not come from DI but from the setup, hotels, security, prop storage, food, transportation (shuttle buses) volunteer and staff housing, and facility rental to include the entire Knoxville Convention Center.

As far as the experience - well, as you know, it is a once in a lifetime event for many people and one they will remember forever. Where else can these kids meet other kids - like them - from all over the world??!!! Teams from China, Korea, all over Canada and our country, Scotland, Turkey, Poland, England, Qatar, Mexico, Brazil, Singapore..... These kids will never forget this experience and the new friends they make. There is nothing else like this!

T-shirts and Pins

Do we need any other t-shirts besides the one each team member and manager are getting from Maryland DI? Is that worn for opening ceremonies?

Yes - every team member, TM and supporter (if they buy shirts) wears their affiliate shirt for opening and closing. Make sure you order them for your team. It is up to the team what it wears for the rest of the week. I encourage teams to order additional Maryland DI shirts for team members so they have clean shirts for closing and can wear the shirts at times other than the ceremonies. I also encourage team supporters to purchase MD DI shirts to show their support for all of our Maryland teams.

You mentioned and I read each team member will get a t-shirt and some pins, so should I just wait for you to send them?

Your team has already received its free pins, but we need to know what sizes of t-shirts you need. You should order your shirts by April 20th at www.marylanddi.org/shop . You should have received in your Globals bag coupons for \$11.25 off a t-shirt. There were enough coupons to cover shirts for all team members and up to two managers. You'll need to pay tax and shipping and a couple dollars for any XXL, XXXL or XXXXL shirts. We encourage family members to purchase shirts to show their support for the teams. If you can manage to order your pins at the same time, that would be great. But you can also place another order for pins later, but by May 2nd. Orders must be placed as a team and not by individual families.

Regarding the pins, is it typical for each team member to buy several extra sets to begin trading?

Teams typically buy some pin sets to trade. It is recommended that each team member have at least 50 pins to trade. Though the goal is to sell out of pins before Globals, I will have more with me in Knoxville if they don't sell out in advance. Many teams will buy more at Globals from me if I still have them. Those are the teams that just didn't "get" pin trading until they see it in action in Knoxville. Don't forget that siblings will want to trade pins, too.

Please make sure all of your team families view the info on pin trading at <http://www.globalfinals.org/events/pin-trading/> .

If you have any more questions, just ask. That's what I am here for.

**Sally Gold
sally@marylanddi.org**