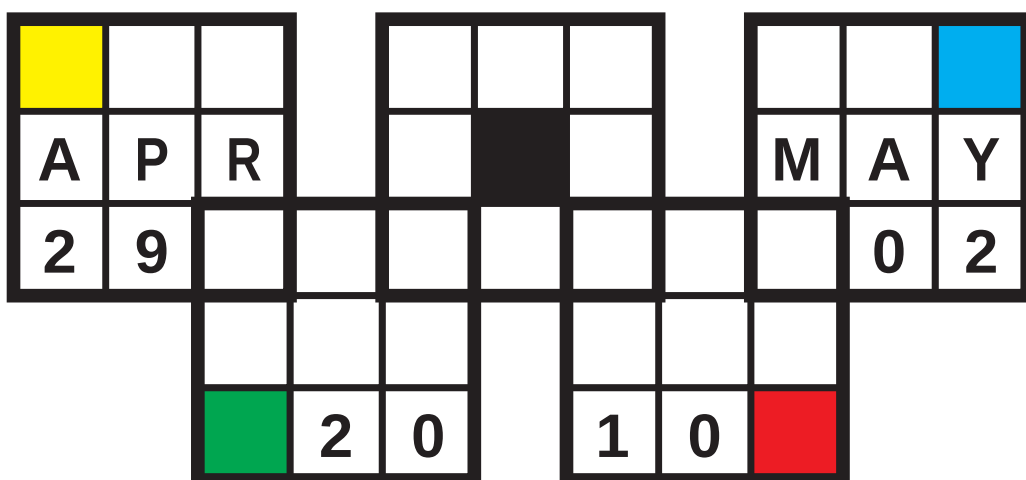


5th WORLD SUDOKU CHAMPIONSHIP PHILADELPHIA



Competition Rules

Lead Sponsor

The Philadelphia Inquirer



Competition Schedule

(as of 4/25)

Thursday 4/29

1-6 pm, 10-11:30 pm	Registration
6:30 pm	Optional transport to Visitor Center
7 – 10:00 pm	Reception at Visitor Center
9:00 pm	Optional transport back to hotel
9:30 – 10:30 pm	Q&A for puzzles and rules

Friday 4/30

8 – 10 am	Breakfast
9 – 1 pm	Self-guided tourism and lunch
1:15 – 5 pm	Individual rounds, breaks • 1: 100 Meters (20 min) • 2: Long Jump (40 min) • 3: Shot Put (40 min) • 4: High Jump (35 min) • 5: 400 Meters (35 min)
5 – 5:15 pm	Room closed for team round setup
5:15 – 6:45 pm	Team rounds, breaks • 1: Weakest Link (40 min) • 2: Number Place (42 min)
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Dinner
8:30 – 10 pm	Game Night

Saturday 5/1

7 – 9 am	Breakfast
8:30 – 12:30 pm	Individual rounds, breaks • 6: 110 Meter Hurdles (20 min) • 7: Discus (35 min) • 8: Pole Vault (40 min) • 9: Javelin (45 min) • 10: 1500 Meters (35 min)
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 4:30 pm	Team rounds, breaks • 3: Jigsaw Sudoku (30 min) • 4: Track & Field Relay (40 min) • 5: Pentathlon (40 min)
5 pm	Individual scoring protest deadline
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Room change for finals
5:30 – 6:45 pm	Individual Finals
7 pm	Team scoring protest deadline
7:30 – 10:30 pm	Dinner and awards

Sunday 5/2

Morning	Breakfast
All Day	Departure

Competition Rules

5th World Sudoku Championship

The rules this year introduce some new scoring techniques and procedures. All competitors, regardless of WSC experience, should read these rules carefully. In particular, we are introducing new notions for

- Partial Credit
- Round Bonus
- Variable Length Team Rounds

Individual Competition

The individual rounds are thematically inspired by the Olympic Decathlon. There are five rounds each on two consecutive days. The first day is focused on speed and "left-brain" skills such as arithmetic; the second day is focused on endurance and "right-brain" skills such as geometric relationships. The four "track" events are represented by standard Sudoku; the main variance is in difficulty and length. The six "field" events are represented by Sudoku variants. The overall winner of the Olympic Decathlon is known as the "World's Greatest Athlete"; accordingly, we might call the winner of the individual competition to be the "World's Greatest Sudoku Solver"!

Individual score is the total points for all puzzles in each of the 10 rounds, including bonuses. No partial credit is given for any puzzle in the individual rounds.

Individual Finals – the Super DOKUthlon

The top four competitors from the Decathlon will participate in a playoff to determine their final ranking. In case of a tie, the following tiebreaking rules will be used in order to determine the finalists:

- Highest total score for first puzzle in each of the 10 rounds
- Highest score for Round 5,
- First to solve a special tie-breaking puzzle using final round rules.

The Super DOKUthlon will include one puzzle style from each of the 10 Decathlon rounds. The puzzle types are listed in the Puzzles section below.

The final round will be 60 minutes. The top qualifier will get the full 60 minutes; the other competitors will get proportionately less time, based on their total Decathlon (Individual Competition) points.

If a competitor finishes the final puzzle before 60 minutes, then the round will end when his or her final puzzle is judged as correct.

The ranking for the Super DOKUthlon is based on the following tiebreaking rules:

- Earliest to finish all puzzles correctly
- Number of puzzles solved correctly
- Number of correct digits placed in the current, incomplete puzzle
- Tie declared.

During the round, the puzzles are solved and judged in order. When a competitor solves a puzzle, he or she will submit the puzzle their grader and can immediately start working on the next puzzle. The grader will check the puzzle for correctness.

If there is any mistake in the solution, the grader will return the puzzle (with one mistake noted, see below) and enforce a 30-second penalty, where the competitor is not allowed to look at any

puzzle or do any writing. After the penalty period, the competitor may continue working on another puzzle, or immediately correct the mistake. However, the contestant must still submit puzzles to the grader in the correct order. For each subsequent mistake on the same puzzle, the time penalty goes up by 30 seconds. The grader can also return a puzzle with no time penalty with the question "what is this?" if the competitor's writing is illegible, or with the comment "too many answers" for the Just One Cell Sudoku.

When returning a puzzle with a mistake, the grader will indicate the first empty cell. If there is no empty cell, the first filled-in cell with an incorrect number will be indicated (looking at rows from top to bottom, then left to right within the row).

The layout of the playoff room is not determined at this time. Finalists might be given a booklet or loose sheets to solve sitting at a desk, or might solve standing up with puzzles mounted on an easel, or some other presentation not yet determined.

Team Competition

The team score is the total points for all team rounds and the individual rounds of the team members, plus all bonuses. There are no playoffs for teams, and individual finals do not affect team score.

Round Bonus

For individual and team rounds, a competitor or team can earn a bonus if they complete all the puzzles in the round before the time limit. The competitor declares by raising his or her hand to get the attention of a floor judge, who will write the time on the scoring cover sheet.

For individual rounds, the full bonus is 5 points for each full minute early (for example, 50 seconds early would not get any bonus). For team rounds, the full bonus is 25 points for each full minute early.

To get the full bonus, all puzzles must be perfectly solved.

If, in the opinion of the judge, the individual or team intended to submit a perfect round, but there is a small number of errors, the round could be considered "near-perfect" and the individual or team would be awarded 60% of the full bonus. In general, a round would be near-perfect if each puzzle in the round was at least 95% correct, in the opinion of the judge.

Motivation: It is possible that, despite the best intentions of the puzzle authors, a competitor may finish a round significantly early. It would be unfair for a competitor who finishes all puzzles significantly early to have the same score as a competitor who barely finishes all the puzzles. Hence, the scoring for bonus time is approximately equal to the points the competitor might have gotten if there were more puzzles in the round.

It is also unfair for a competitor who has made a slight mistake (such as a digit transposition or leaving a cell blank) to finish early, thinking he has a perfect score, and lose the time bonus. A small mistake should not be a very significant score penalty beyond the loss of the points the puzzle is worth.

We also do not want to motivate competitors to focus too much on precision; checking solutions should not be an extremely important component of Sudoku solving skill. Therefore, awarding some time bonus to a competitor who turns in early even if he does not have a perfect score is reasonable. Unfortunately, there is no way to draw a clean line between a competitor who has made an honest mistake versus a competitor who is trying to abuse the system by getting just good enough to be "near-perfect," so we will leave it up to the judge's decision.

Round Duration for Team Rounds

Team rounds will have a variable time limit to try to ensure that some teams are able to complete each of these rounds.

With 5 minutes left in the round, if no team has completed the round (perfectly or "near perfect") then the clock will hold at 5 minutes. The clock will restart when one of the following happens:

- Any team completes the round and has been judged perfect or "near perfect."
- The maximum time limit has been reached (as determined by overall WSC schedule constraints or similar conditions), which is no more than 15 minutes beyond the original time. This time will be announced before the round. We do not expect the maximum time limit will ever be reached.

Motivation: It is possible that the puzzle authors have made a mistake and have designed a round that is too hard. In the past, such rounds have ended too early, having the effect of interesting puzzles just not being solved, and sometimes subverting the intention of the round. Although this system is complex, one can see that it reasonably protects against such a scenario, while also minimizing the chance that competitors can subvert the system by turning in their papers early, or that the system might be broken if one puzzle is insanely hard or unsolvable.

General Judging

In general, a puzzle must be completely solved in order to get credit for a correct answer. However, partial credit is given for some team rounds. For individual rounds, a Scoring Area is used, which allows full credit even if the grid is not completely filled. Both are described below.

If, in the opinion of the judge, the entry in a cell is unreadable or ambiguous (such as only two candidates of roughly equal emphasis), the entry will be considered incorrect. A special case is the Just One Cell Sudoku, where you are to place a single correct digit into a grid. If, for example, your intended answer is written with the same size and emphasis as another digit in the grid, your answer will be marked wrong, even if it is the correct answer. To avoid such judging mishaps, you are strongly advised to use the Scoring Area described below.

Partial Credit

Each puzzle is worth the number of points indicated on the round scoring summary page. Partial credit is available for the all team rounds except Number Place. See the Puzzles section below for more information.

Scoring Area

Judging for the Decathlon rounds will be performed using a method similar to the SudokuCup, US Puzzle Championship, and other on-line competitions where only a portion of the entire puzzle grid is judged, but with some significant improvements for both contestants and judges.

After solving a puzzle, the contestant will copy the two indicated rows (or the equivalent) of the grid into the *Scoring Area* at the bottom on the page. Only the entry in the Scoring Area will be judged for 100% accuracy. Even if the grid is not completely filled in (at least 90% correct), you will still get full credit for a correct answer.

To get full credit for a puzzle, one of the following must be true:

- The Scoring Area is correct and the grid is filled at least 90% correctly; or
- The Scoring Area is empty, and the grid is 100% correct.

If the Scoring Area is correct but less than 90% of the grid is filled, you will get full credit if the judge believes that you made an honest attempt to solve the puzzle and fill the grid sufficiently.

Motivation: The advantage of this system is that grading can be fast and efficient. Additionally, a contestant who completes a grid but makes a trivial error (such as leaving a cell blank, or leaving

two candidates instead of placing the correct digit) deserves some sort of partial credit. This system gives the solver FULL credit in these cases.

Grading Sudoku can be very difficult when candidates, other notations, and final digits all appear in the same cell. This can lead to incorrect or impossible grading, costing contestants points they believe they have earned. This system helps ensure that the contestant's intended answer is clear for the judges, eliminating this problem.

This will allow us to perform faster grading with fewer ambiguities that lead to mistakes. However, the scoring area is not meant to encourage you not to completely solve a puzzle, and so it is expected that the grid itself will contain a complete (or nearly complete) solution. This guideline especially applies for solvers who sometimes solve on scratch paper, who must still fill in the original grid as well as the Scoring Area, since a mostly blank grid with a correct Scoring Area would be indistinguishable from the paper of someone who found a way to cheat and copy those rows against the rules of the competition.

Code of Conduct

All competitors must solve puzzles honestly and fairly, with no outside help, and may not intentionally disrupt fellow competitors.

Competitors may use writing implements, eraser, and scratch paper. No other materials or outside help of any kind is permitted. During competition, desks should be clear of all nonessential items.

You may make notes to clarify the puzzle instructions (such as in the Instruction Book) and consult those notes during competition. However, notes that may help solving a puzzle (such as a list of which digits contain the letter "T" in their English spelling) are not permitted.

Teammates may communicate, but only when permitted during the following rounds:

- Weakest Link, only during the team part
- Jigsaw Sudoku
- Track & Field Relay, only between two people solving a field puzzle
- Pentathlon

At the discretion of the judge, the penalty for violating the code of conduct will be disqualification for those puzzles or rounds in which the improper conduct occurred.

General

The maximum number of competitors from any one country is six, each competing individually.

Official teams must have three individual competitors from the same country, named in advance of the competition; the deadline is by the end of the Thursday night rules meeting. A country may have two official teams, but only one team per country will appear in the official results.

If there are one or two extra competitors not assigned to a country team, they may join with competitors from another country to form an unofficial team. All teams will be scored and reported, but unofficial teams will not appear in the official published results.

Captains

Each country has one captain, to represent the interests of the country's competitors and team(s) in all matters. A captain may also be a participating competitor. A captain:

- Ensures that the country's contestants understand the competition rules and instructions
- Represents individuals and teams in a judging protest
- May be asked to serve on a jury in the case of extreme judging situations
- Attend the Rules Meeting
- Should be present at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session to hear any important announcements, such as regarding the competition and schedules.

Noncompeting captains may not communicate with competitors or teams during the rounds of competition.

Protests

If a competitor or team believes that a puzzle has been scored incorrectly or there is some other error, then the captain must bring this to the attention of the head judge before the protest deadline. The judge will make a decision and give a reasonable explanation if the protest is denied.

In case of extreme dissatisfaction with the ruling of the judge, the captain can request a hearing with a committee of five captains, organized by the WPF board, where both the captain and judge will present their opinions and the committee will render a final decision. In all other cases, the decisions of the head judge are final.

Puzzles

Instructions and examples for all puzzles appear in the Instruction Booklet or linked from the PuzzleWiki page for WSC5:

http://www.worldpuzzle.org/wiki/index.php/Fifth_World_Sudoku_Championship. The following is a summary of each round.

Individual Rounds

Round 1. 100m (20 minutes; 100 points) – This is a round of classic Sudoku, of easy difficulty. All puzzles can be solved with basic techniques, such as Hidden Single, Hidden Pair, Pointing Pair, and Box-Line Reduction.

- Classic Sudoku (11 points)
- Classic Sudoku (11 points)
- Classic Sudoku (12 points)
- Classic Sudoku (12 points)
- Classic Sudoku (13 points)
- Classic Sudoku (13 points)
- Classic Sudoku (14 points)
- Classic Sudoku (14 points)

Round 2. Long Jump (40 minutes; 200 points) – Sudoku Variants that require the solver to use arithmetic operations.

- Killer Sudoku (22 points)
- Integer Division Sudoku (6x6 grid, 14 points)
- Arrow Sudoku (20 points)
- Color Sum Sudoku (24 points)
- Little Killer Sudoku (29 points)
- $1234+567+89$ (43 points)
- Product Last-digit Arrow Sudoku (48 points)

Round 3. Shot Put (40 minutes; 190 points) – Sudoku Variants that change the rules on how many numbers can be in a region, or how many numbers can be in a cell, or how many regions a cell belongs to.

- 0-9 Sudoku (43 points)
- Surplus Sudoku (5x5 grid, 4 points)
- Countdown Sudoku (6x6 grid, 5 points)
- Tight Fit Sudoku (13 points)
- Deficit Sudoku (5x5 grid, 14 points)
- Parquet Sudoku (30 points)
- Altered Sudoku (6x6 grid, 34 points)
- Double Cairo Sudoku (47 points)

Round 4. High Jump (35 minutes; 155 points) – Sudoku Variants that require the solver to use relational, comparative, and set-theoretic properties of 1-9.

- Consecutive Sudoku (22 points)
- Skyscrapers Sudoku (6x6 grid, 7 points)
- Comparative Sudoku (22 points)
- Thermometer Sudoku (22 points)
- Odd-Even-Big-Small Sudoku (8x8 grid, 22points)
- Outside Sudoku (27 points)
- Fortress Sudoku (33 points)

Round 5. 400 meters (35 minutes; 155 points) – This round has standard Sudoku puzzles that may need less-common heuristics, such as Naked Single, Naked Pair/Triple, Hidden Triple, and X-Wing.

- Classic Sudoku (14 points)
- Classic Sudoku (15 points)
- Classic Sudoku (16 points)
- Classic Sudoku (19 points)
- Classic Sudoku (20 points)
- Classic Sudoku (21 points)
- Classic Sudoku (24 points)
- Classic Sudoku (26 points)

Round 6. 110 meter hurdles (20 minutes; 110 points) – This round has only Just One Cell Sudoku puzzles.

- Composition "W" (4 points)
- Composition "S" (4 points)
- Composition "C" (4 points)
- Composition "5" (4 points)
- Composition (4 points)
- Composition (4 points)
- Composition (4 points)
- Composition (4 points)
- Composition (4 points)
- Composition (4 points)
- Basic Study (6 points)
- Basic Study (6 points)
- Basic Study (6 points)
- Basic Study (6 points)
- Basic Study (6 points)
- Advanced Study (8 points)
- Advanced Study (8 points)
- Advanced Study (8 points)
- Advanced Study (8 points)
- Advanced Study (8 points)

Round 7. Discus (35 minutes; 155 points) – Sudoku Variants that add additional regions.

- Diagonal Sudoku (20 points)
- Double Irregular Sudoku (6x6 grid, 12 points)
- Windoku (15 points)
- Hexagon Sudoku (22 points)
- Double-Diagonal Sudoku (23 points)
- Dragon Sudoku (26 points)
- Musketry Sudoku (37 points)

Round 8. Pole Vault (40 minutes; 200 points) – Sudoku Variants that use different representations or features of the 1-9 list.

- Digital Sudoku (6x6 grid, 20 points)
- Dice Pip Sudoku (6x6 grid, 13 points)
- Morse Sudoku (6x6 grid, 14 points)
- S as in Sudoku (25 points)
- Roman Numeral Sudoku (32 points)
- Trinary Sudoku (41 points)
- Inverse-Digital Letter Sudoku (9x9 grid, 55 points)

Round 9. Javelin (45 minutes; 225 points) – Sudoku Variants that use different geometries and line connections.

- Irregular Sudoku (40 points)
- Weave Sudoku (6x6 grid, 10 points)
- Sudo-Kurve (12 points)
- Isometric Sudoku (14 points)
- Primrose Sudoku (35 points)
- Ten-Box Sudoku (54 points)
- Penrose-2 Sudoku (60 points)

Round 10. 1500 meters (35 minutes; 310 points) – This round has standard Sudoku puzzles that require very difficult techniques, including Y-Wing, Simple Coloring, Swordfish, and even more advanced ones than demonstrated here. Most solvers will probably end up using bifurcation on these puzzles.

- Classic Sudoku (25 points)
- Classic Sudoku (27 points)
- Classic Sudoku (29 points)
- Classic Sudoku (31 points)
- Classic Sudoku (33 points)
- Classic Sudoku (35 points)
- Classic Sudoku (40 points)
- Classic Sudoku (40 points)
- Classic Sudoku (50 points)

Individual Finals: SUPER DOKUathlon (60 minutes), one puzzle in the style of each of the Decathlon rounds:

- 100 meters: Standard Sudoku, easy difficulty
- Long Jump: Killer Sudoku
- Shot Put: 0-9 Sudoku
- High Jump: Consecutive Sudoku
- 400 meters: Standard Sudoku, medium difficulty
- 110 meter hurdles: Just One Cell Sudoku - "Basic Study"
- Discus: Diagonal Sudoku
- Pole Vault: Digital Sudoku
- Javelin: Irregular Sudoku
- 1500 meters: Standard Sudoku, hard difficulty

Team Rounds

The team rounds will cover themes that are not as well-covered in the individual rounds.

Team Round 1. Weakest Link (40 minutes)

This round features classic Sudoku with shared regions between the puzzles. The round starts with each team member solving the same puzzle alone. When this puzzle is judged as correct, the individual competitor is allowed to transition to the team area and will receive additional puzzles depending on how many team members are already at the team area. If an individual's puzzle is twice judged as incorrect, then that individual is excluded from the team area.

The individual puzzle is a Triple-Double Sudoku (two linked grids). The team puzzle is a Triple-Quadruple Sudoku, with four mutually linked grids. The first team member to complete the individual part gets two of the linked puzzles at the team desk; each subsequent member gets one more.

Scoring:

- For each individual grid, 25 points if solved correctly, otherwise 0 points.
- For each team grid, 200 points if solved correctly; otherwise partial credit is minus 20 points (from 200) for each cell that is incorrect or empty, but not less than 0 points.

Total: 950 points (six individual grids plus four team grid).

Team Round 2. Number Place (42 minutes)

In this round, the team must work together to solve six standard Sudoku puzzles without any writing implements to make notes or any methods to erase.

Each player will sit at an individual desk and may not communicate with the other team members. Each desk will have a puzzle on it. Each team member will be supplied with a sheet of colored stickers bearing the numbers from 1 to 9, with different colors for each solver. The puzzles will also have three regions shaded in the same colors as the stickers. Team members must only place digits/stickers in the regions belonging to their color and cannot remove stickers but can, if necessary, place a sticker over another one of the same color in an appropriate region. Each player will have only one extra sticker for each digit (9 total extra stickers for the entire round), so the opportunity to correct mistakes is very limited. Partial credit will be given for incomplete grids.

The round will start with three puzzles, one in front of each individual solver. After 90 seconds, an announcement/sound will indicate that the puzzle should be passed to the next team member on the right. This continues until a puzzle is declared finished and turned in. Whenever a puzzle is turned in, a new puzzle will be given to the solver at that desk to begin on, for a total of six puzzles in the round.

Scoring:

- Puzzle Blue: 250 if solved correctly, otherwise 4 points per correct sticker.
- Puzzle Green: 100 if solved correctly, otherwise 1 point per correct sticker.
- Puzzle Red: 100 if solved correctly, otherwise 1 point per correct sticker.
- Puzzle 4: 200 if solved correctly, otherwise 3 points per correct sticker.
- Puzzle 5: 150 if solved correctly, otherwise 2 points per correct sticker.
- Puzzle 6: 200 if solved correctly, otherwise 3 points per correct sticker.

Total: 1000 points.

Team Round 3. Jigsaw Sudoku (30 minutes)

Teams are given a set of 36 colored nonominos: 32 as physical jigsaw pieces, and four pre-printed on separate 9x9 grids. The team must place the jigsaw pieces to construct four valid Irregular Sudoku puzzles, and then solve them.

Scoring: For each grid:

- 50 points for each grid assembled correctly, otherwise 0 points.
- 150 points for each Irregular Sudoku grid solved correctly; otherwise partial credit is minus 20 points (from 150) for each cell that is incorrect or empty, but not less than 0 points.

Total: 800 points.

Team Round 4. Track and Field Relay (40 minutes)

One team member starts alone at the table with a track puzzle, an easy-moderate standard Sudoku. The other two team members sit together with a field puzzle: a 9x9 puzzle from one of the Field Rounds. The Field puzzles (which are represented by 6x6 versions in the individual rounds)

are Integer Division Sudoku, Countdown Sudoku, Skyscrapers Sudoku, Double Irregular Sudoku, Morse Sudoku, Weave Sudoku.

At the start of the round, both the individual and pair set to work on their puzzles. When both puzzles are finished, the two puzzles are turned in and a proctor will deliver the next track puzzle and the next field puzzle to the respective desks. Individuals will change positions by moving one chair to the right to change roles. During a total of six stages of the relay, each team member will have worked alone on a Track puzzle two times and on a Field puzzle with another team member four times.

Scoring: For each stage:

- 160 points if both puzzles are correct; otherwise partial credit is minus 20 points (from 160) for each cell that is incorrect or empty, but not less than 0 points.

Total: 960 points.

Team Round 5. Pentathlon (40 minutes)

A "Relay" page shows 24 cells, labeled A-Z (except for I and O). These labels represent links between Sudoku grids: wherever a label appears in a Sudoku grid, that cell must contain the linking digit.

Four puzzles are given, each having 4 cells linked to each of the other three grids, making 12 linked cells per grid, and 24 total links among the four grids. Solve the four puzzles and enter the linking values on the Relay page. Each puzzle can be solved with no outside information, but are made easier by taking advantage of the links.

The four puzzles types used are:

- Deficit Sudoku
- Consecutive Sudoku
- Thermometer Sudoku
- S as in Sudoku (using numbers from 9 different languages)

Scoring:

- 200 points if all 24 numbers on the Relay sheet are correct; otherwise partial credit is 5 points per correct number, minus 10 points per incorrect number, but not less than 0 points.
- 200 for each Sudoku grid solved correctly; otherwise partial credit is minus 20 points (from 200) for each cell that is incorrect or empty, but not less than 0 points.

Total: 1000 points.