

# E12 - Nine Schools Competition Part V

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**[00:01]** ---

The back of the accommodation for the Nine Schools Competition  
Outdoors training field for the competition

**[00:09]** ---

All right, ready to start?

**[00:10]** ---

Roger!

**[00:13]** ---

Here goes!

**[00:25]** ---

It's really floating up there!

**[00:27]** ---

This is so cool!

**[00:30]** ---

3... 2... 1...

**[00:33]** ---

Zero.

**[00:34]** ---

Whoa!

**[00:37]** ---

I'd totally call that  
a success, Tatsuya!

**[00:40]** ---

So Fortifying Magic works even when  
it's not physically connected...

**[00:43]** ---

Fortifying Magic is defined by  
how it stabilizes relative positions.

**[00:48]** ---

There's no need for  
objects to be in contact.

**[00:50]** ---

The way this device works is probably  
more like "extending" than "flinging out."

**[00:57]** ---

Since there's nothing in the middle, it will only move along the extended length of the sword.

**[01:02]** ---

It feels the same as if I were swinging a really long sword.

**[01:05]** ---

That helps because it keeps me from over-thinking.

**[01:08]** ---

All right, the next step is a live test.

**[03:09]** ---

Third day of the competition  
Battle Board Venue

**SIGN** Semifinal Second Race

Makiko Hidaka *Ninth High School*

Risa Kuroki *Seventh High School*

Mari Watanabe *First High School*

**[03:17]** ---

*On your marks.*

**[03:32]** ---

Just as I thought...  
she's tough.

**[03:34]** ---

Gotta hand it to  
"Seventh High of the seas!"

**[03:37]** ---

This is the same matchup  
as last year's final, right?

**SIGN** Semifinal Second Race

**[03:52]** ---

Over-acceleration?

**[03:54]** ---

*That's...*

**[04:19]** ---

Brother!

**[04:20]** ---

I'm heading over there.  
You guys wait for me here!

**[04:23]** ---

V-Very well...

**[04:32]** ---

Susono Base Hospital

**[04:40]** ---

Mari?

**[04:43]** ---

Are you back with us?

**[04:45]** ---

Do you know who I am?

**[04:47]** ---

Mayumi?

**[04:50]** ---

What are you talking about?

**[04:52]** ---

There's no need to ask me  
something like... Ouch...

**[04:57]** ---

Is this the hospital?

**[04:59]** ---

Yes, it's the hospital  
on the Susono Base.

**[05:02]** ---

Thank goodness... There doesn't  
seem to be any mental damage...

**[05:07]** ---

Oh, no, you shouldn't  
be getting up yet.

**[05:09]** ---

You broke your ribs.

**[05:11]** ---

For now, they've been  
reconnected with magic,

**[05:13]** ---

but they haven't set yet.

**[05:15]** ---

This is just a stop-gap  
measure, all right?

**[05:21]** ---

How long will it take for it to set?

**[05:23]** ---

One week for a full recovery...

**[05:28]** ---

Normal activities won't pose any  
problem after a day of bed rest,

**[05:32]** ---

but to be safe, you'll have to abstain  
from strenuous exercise for ten days.

**[05:36]** ---

Hey, but that means...

**[05:38]** ---

You'll have to withdraw  
from Mirage Bat as well.

**[05:41]** ---

But it can't be helped.

**[05:45]** ---

I see...

**[05:47]** ---

How did the race go?

**[05:50]** ---

Seventh High was disqualified  
for reckless conduct.

**[05:53]** ---

Third High and Ninth High  
will be in the final.

**[05:55]** ---

I hear that the Seventh High  
player's injuries weren't serious.

**[05:59]** ---

Your efforts to protect her  
weren't in vain.

**[06:02]** ---

Doesn't do us any good  
if I get seriously injured myself...

**[06:06]** ---

If you hadn't decelerated at that  
moment and protected that girl...

**[06:10]** ---

Seventh High's player would've  
suffered critical injuries,

**[06:13]** ---

and I think her career as  
a magician would've ended.

**[06:16]** ---

That was Tatsuya's opinion as well.

**[06:18]** ---

Hey, why would you bring that  
guy's name up at a time like this?

**[06:22]** ---

Because he was the one  
who carried you here

**[06:24]** ---

and stayed with you while  
you were being treated.

**[06:27]** ---

What?

**[06:28]** ---

You should thank him  
yourself later, at least.

**[06:31]** ---

After all, Tatsuya was  
the one who came running,

**[06:33]** ---

saw at a glance that your ribs were fractured,  
and told the paramedics what to do.

**[06:43]** ---

By the way, Mari...

**[06:44]** ---

When it happened, were you being  
hindered by a third party using magic?

**[06:50]** ---

What do you mean?

**[06:51]** ---

The reason you lost your balance  
just before catching the Seventh High girl

**[06:55]** ---

must have been because of  
an illegal spell cast by a third party,

**[06:58]** ---

which interfered with  
the water's surface...

**[07:01]** ---

That's what I mean.

**[07:04]** ---

True...

**[07:05]** ---

Just before my board sank, I did feel  
an unnatural swaying at my feet...

**[07:11]** ---

What made you think that?

**[07:13]** ---

The moment you lost your footing,  
the water's surface was fluctuating unnaturally.

**[07:19]** ---

There was a discontinuity to it, seen  
only in Phenomenon-rewriting spells.

**[07:24]** ---

But at the time, neither the Seventh High girl nor  
the Ninth High girl were using that kind of magic.

**[07:30]** ---

The only other possibility would  
be a spell cast by a third party.

**[07:34]** ---

Tatsuya agrees with me on that, too.

**[07:36]** ---

He says he's going to borrow  
the videos from the tournament staff

**[07:39]** ---

and analyze the fluctuations  
of the water's surface...

**[07:43]** ---

But...

**[07:45]** ---

Who in the world would do  
such a thing, and why?

**[07:50]** ---

So did you find out anything?

**[07:53]** ---

I considered it from all angles.

**[07:56]** ---

We should look at this as a third  
party's intervention, after all.

**[08:00]** ---

Shiba, you really work fast.

**[08:03]** ---

Still...

**[08:04]** ---

This is going to be  
tougher than we thought...

**[08:07]** ---

What do you mean by that, Kei?

**[08:11]** ---

As you know, Kanon...

**[08:12]** ---

To prevent foul play by outside  
parties using Interference Magic,

**[08:17]** ---

the NSC not only has hired magicians skilled  
in Counter Magic stationed throughout each arena,

**[08:23]** ---

but they also have a massive amount  
of surveillance cameras in place.

**[08:27]** ---

I was sure that some kind of sequence was  
launched from outside the surveillance network.

**[08:33]** ---

But according to Shiba's analysis,

**[08:35]** ---

the force that affected the water's surface  
was generated from within the water...

**[08:39]** ---

The only possible explanation would be that  
there was an operative lurking in the water.

**[08:44]** ---

Miyuki?

**[08:46]** ---

Yes, Brother.

**[08:49]** ---

Let me introduce these two.

**[08:50]** ---

My classmates, Yoshida and Shibata.

**[08:53]** ---

I've asked them to come here to help solve the riddle of the underwater operative.

**[08:58]** ---

Nice to meet you.

**[09:00]** ---

I look forward to working with you.

**[09:02]** ---

I'm sure you know them, but this is Kei Isori, and that's Kanon Chiyoda, both second years.

**[09:06]** ---

Hey.

**[09:07]** ---

Good to be working with you, too.

**[09:08]** ---

Right now, we're verifying the possibility

**[09:11]** ---

that Ms. Watanabe was the victim of illegal magic interference by a third party.

**[09:17]** ---

Just before Ms. Watanabe lost her balance, the water's surface was seen to cave inward unnaturally.

**[09:22]** ---

This was almost certainly due to magic interference from within the water.

**[09:27]** ---

It's impossible to cast a spell on the waterway from outside the waterway without being detected.

**[09:32]** ---

It's also unlikely that it was caused by delayed magic.

**[09:36]** ---

In that case, it's feasible that the spell was cast by someone hiding underwater.

**[09:43]** ---

But that's a preposterous theory.

**[09:46]** ---

There's simply no way to hide oneself one hundred percent,

**[09:49]** ---

either with modern magic or Ancient Magic.

**[09:53]** ---

That being the case...

**[09:54]** ---

Something other than a human was  
lurking in the waterway.

**[09:58]** ---

That would be the logical conclusion.

**[10:00]** ---

Do you think that it might have  
been Spirit Magic, Tatsuya?

**[10:05]** ---

Yoshida's a magician  
highly skilled in Spirit Magic.

**[10:08]** ---

And Shibata is gifted with  
an exceptional sensitivity to Pushions.

**[10:14]** ---

Mikihiko...

**[10:16]** ---

Is it possible to cast a delayed spell,  
deferring activation for several hours,

**[10:19]** ---

and under specific conditions,  
to cause the water's surface to cave in?

**[10:22]** ---

Can you do that with Spirit Magic?

**[10:25]** ---

Yes, it's possible.

**[10:26]** ---

For you, too?

**[10:27]** ---

As long as I'm familiar with  
the ley lines and topography,

**[10:31]** ---

I can send in the spirits  
through the ley lines.

**[10:33]** ---

That said, casting such a spell wouldn't  
generate enough power to matter.

**[10:38]** ---

Even if you managed  
to disrupt the water's surface,

**[10:41]** ---

that in itself wouldn't be enough to create a huge  
wave that could knock Ms. Watanabe off balance.

**[10:46]** ---

If the Seventh High player hadn't

accidentally over-accelerated,

**[10:49]** ---

it wouldn't have been any more serious than a kid's prank.

**[10:53]** ---

If that was just an accident, too.

**[10:57]** ---

Look at this.

**[10:59]** ---

Normally, the Seventh High player should've started decelerating here.

**[11:04]** ---

But in fact, she began to accelerate.

**[11:08]** ---

Right, that is unnatural.

**[11:10]** ---

No Magician who'd make such a beginner's mistake would possibly be chosen for the NSC...

**[11:15]** ---

In all likelihood...

**[11:17]** ---

Her CAD must have been tampered with.

**[11:21]** ---

This is the first turn where she would have needed to decelerate.

**[11:25]** ---

If her Activation Sequence for deceleration was swapped out for an Activation Sequence for acceleration,

**[11:29]** ---

then there'd be an accident waiting to happen right here.

**[11:32]** ---

And based on the lap times from last year's final,

**[11:35]** ---

one could foresee that they would be in a virtual dead heat as they made this turn.

**[11:42]** ---

If I wanted to thwart them, this would be my chance to knock off both front-runners at once...

**[11:47]** ---

I would've seen it that way.

**[11:51]** ---

I admit that sounds logical, but...

**[11:53]** ---

Could a CAD be tampered with?

**[11:56]** ---

And if it was tampered with,  
then who would do such a thing?

**[11:59]** ---

Someone on the Seventh  
High engineering staff?

**[12:02]** ---

While that possibly can't  
be ruled out entirely...

**[12:05]** ---

I believe it's much more likely that there's an operative  
among the tournament committee members.

**[12:11]** ---

But, Brother.

**[12:12]** ---

Just when and how could this  
person have tampered with the CAD?

**[12:17]** ---

All the schools keep their CADs  
under strict lock and key...

**[12:21]** ---

Just once, without exception,

**[12:23]** ---

all CADs are taken out of each school's keeping  
and are handed over to the committee.

**[12:28]** ---

*However...*

**[12:30]** ---

*We still don't know  
how they tampered with it...*

**[12:34]** ---

*That complicates things...*

**SIGN** Nine Schools Competition Part V

**[12:41]** ---

The Official matches still left to be  
played are Mirage Bat and Monolith Code.

**[12:46]** ---

To assure ourselves  
of an overall victory,

**[12:49]** ---

we'll have to take first place in both.

**[12:51]** ---

Not only that, but with the added perk of having to  
watch out for interference by an unknown entity.

**[12:58]** ---

Come in.

**[13:00]** ---

Excuse me.

**[13:02]** ---

Have a seat, will you?

**[13:06]** ---

I've brought you here because there's something important to consult you on.

**[13:09]** ---

Rin,

**[13:10]** ---

would you mind giving them the rundown?

**[13:12]** ---

I think you're both aware of today's results.

**[13:15]** ---

Although we did suffer an accident,

**[13:18]** ---

our school's scores are more or less in line with our projections.

**SIGN** First High Third High

**[13:22]** ---

However, since Third High has been making greater gains than we'd anticipated,

**[13:25]** ---

our lead is less comfortable than projected.

**[13:29]** ---

Should we fall drastically behind Third High in the Rookie Events that start tomorrow,

**[13:35]** ---

then depending on our score in the Official Mirage Bat event,

**[13:37]** ---

it's possible that we'd be overtaken.

**[13:41]** ---

Official points are worth twice as much as Rookie points.

**[13:44]** ---

Therefore, as the team's Strategic Advisors,

**[13:46]** ---

we have decided to pour our resources into the Official Mirage Bat event,

**[13:51]** ---

even if it's somewhat at the expense of the Rookie Event.

**[13:56]** ---

Yes, Tatsuya, it is what you think.

**[13:58]** ---

Miyuki...

**[14:01]** ---

We're going to have you take Mari's place  
and compete in the Official Mirage Bat event.

**[14:06]** ---

Tatsuya, you'll continue to serve as Miyuki's  
engineer, and come to the arena on Day 9 as well.

**[14:14]** ---

But... There are older students  
participating in just one event.

**[14:20]** ---

Why would you choose me as a replacement when  
you'd have to take me out of the Rookie Event?

**[14:24]** ---

We never had  
a backup for Mirage Bat.

**[14:29]** ---

That's the reason.

**[14:31]** ---

Players who've trained in  
advance have more upside.

**[14:34]** ---

Besides...

**[14:35]** ---

Your little sister has what it takes  
to win even the Official Event, right?

**[14:40]** ---

It's possible.

**[14:43]** ---

B-Brother!

**[14:45]** ---

Since you've evaluated us so highly,

**[14:48]** ---

I'll be sure to give it  
my very best as your engineer.

**[14:52]** ---

You can do it, can't you? Miyuki...

**[15:01]** ---

Yes!

**[15:04]** ---

Fourth day of the competition  
First day of the Rookie Event

**[15:06]** ---

Honoka... Are you in the final race?

**[15:08]** ---

Yes! Since I'm racing in the afternoon, there won't be any overlap with the Girls' Speed Shooting event.

**[15:15]** ---

I just hope it goes without a hitch...

**[15:18]** ---

Uh, nothing.

**[15:20]** ---

I've been a little concerned about something, you see...

**[15:23]** ---

What I'd really like to do is check out your CAD, Honoka...

**[15:26]** ---

But since I can't do that, I've decided to at least watch your race from the sidelines.

**[15:31]** ---

Really?

**[15:33]** ---

That's a promise, okay?

**[15:35]** ---

Sure.

**[15:54]** ---

Check it out thoroughly to make sure nothing's wrong.

**[15:58]** ---

Right. All good.

**[16:00]** ---

It's more comfortable than my own.

**[16:02]** ---

Is it? Then I'm satisfied.

**[16:04]** ---

Tatsuya?

**[16:07]** ---

Are you sure you don't want my family to hire you?

**[16:10]** ---

If you're relaxed enough to joke around right before your match, then you'll be fine.

**[16:15]** ---

I'm not joking... Look, you don't have to work for us exclusively...

**[16:19]** ---

I'm sure I've told you repeatedly,

**[16:21]** ---

but let's talk about that after

I get my license, all right?

**[16:26]** ---

Gotcha.

**[16:30]** ---

It's time... Shizuku.

**[16:34]** ---

Yes.

**[16:35]** ---

All right, good luck!

**[16:38]** ---

Okay. I'm gonna give it my all.

**[16:42]** ---

Women's Rookie Event  
Speed Shooting Qualifying Venue

**[16:44]** ---

Is that seat next to you available?

**[16:45]** ---

Hey, Miyuki! Sure,  
it's available. Be my guest!

**[16:49]** ---

Huh?

**[16:50]** ---

Honoka, are you ready for your race?

**[16:53]** ---

S-Sure I'm ready! My race isn't  
till the afternoon, anyway!

**[16:57]** ---

Honoka, if you get nervous now,  
you won't make it till your race.

**[17:03]** ---

I know that, but...

**[17:05]** ---

I know you'll be just fine, Honoka.

**[17:08]** ---

Didn't my brother  
tell you the same thing?

**[17:11]** ---

Since you've come to see this match  
in order to take your mind off your race,

**[17:14]** ---

let's just root for Shizuku for now.

**[17:17]** ---

Okay.

**[17:18]** ---

You're right!

**[17:23]** ---

Come to think of it,

**[17:24]** ---

this will be our first time seeing his engineering skills in an actual match.

**[17:30]** ---

That's true. In my case, he really just helped me out a little,

**[17:34]** ---

so I can't wait to see how a CAD he's fine-tuned from scratch will perform.

**[17:40]** ---

Starting with Ms. Kitayama, he seems to be getting high praise from from the athletes.

**[17:46]** ---

Apparently some athletes even went to the trouble of bringing their own CADs with them today...

**[17:50]** ---

Hey, hey...

**[17:52]** ---

That could affect the matches, couldn't it?

**[17:54]** ---

Regarding that, it seems like it's all under control.

**[17:58]** ---

Apparently, he'll be servicing them after the matches are over.

**[18:02]** ---

So he's steadily increasing his fan-base, huh?

**SIGN** Shizuku Kitayama  
*First High School*

Rookie Event  
(Qualifying First Round)

**SIGN** Shizuku Kitayama  
*First High School*

**[18:24]** ---

That's dynamic!

**[18:25]** ---

Could it be that she's set the whole scoring area as her Magic Activation Zone?

**[18:31]** ---

That's right.

**[18:32]** ---

Shizuku is tagging all solid substances inside the zone with Vibrating Wave Magic to destroy her targets.

**[18:40]** ---

The effective scoring  
area in Speed Shooting...

**[18:44]** ---

...is a cube measuring 15 meters  
on each side, placed in the air.

**[18:48]** ---

Shiba's Activation Sequence  
sets another cube inside it,

**[18:51]** ---

measuring 10 meters on each side,

**[18:54]** ---

and the nine points comprised of each of its vertices  
and its center, have been defined as epicenters.

**[19:00]** ---

Each point has been numbered,

**[19:02]** ---

and when that number is entered as a variable  
in the Activation Sequence that's been launched,

**[19:07]** ---

sphere-shaped virtual waves  
will spread from the epicenter.

**[19:11]** ---

The coverage area of  
these waves is 6 meters.

**[19:14]** ---

In other words, activating the magic sequence once will  
cause the formation of a spherical "destruction space"

**[19:21]** ---

with a radius of 6 meters  
and an epicenter at its core.

**[19:24]** ---

In speed shooting, the position of  
the players, as well as the distance from,

**[19:28]** ---

the direction and the size of  
the effective scoring area remain constant.

**[19:31]** ---

Therefore, there is no need to  
enter variable coordinates each time.

**[19:35]** ---

Rather, you can simply specify the number  
of your choosing during activation,

**[19:39]** ---

and the Magic Sequence  
will be launched.

**[19:42]** ---

In effect, the player only needs to

pull the trigger to destroy her targets...

**SIGN** Shizuku Kitayama

*First High School*

**[19:54]** ---

The proper name of this  
magic spell is Active Air Mine.

**[19:58]** ---

I hear it's a Shiba original.

**[20:01]** ---

Due to its massive Activation Sequence,  
Ms. Kitayama's processing power makes it a viable spell.

**[20:06]** ---

In concept, it's the exact  
opposite of your magic, Mayumi...

**[20:10]** ---

I can't believe that he came up  
with a sequence like this.

**[20:14]** ---

Good job.

**[20:16]** ---

It seems anticlimactic,  
for some reason.

**[20:18]** ---

I didn't think they'd  
go for the blind spots...

**[20:21]** ---

Just as I expected,  
the settings weren't spiteful at all.

**[20:25]** ---

Tatsuya, you worry too much.

**[20:28]** ---

It's still only  
the preliminaries, you know.

**[20:31]** ---

But from the quarterfinals,  
you'll be playing in match mode.

**[20:34]** ---

I already fine-tuned your CAD  
this morning, so see how it feels later.

**[20:40]** ---

Gotcha!

**[20:43]** ---

So all three of our first year  
girls made it through, huh?

**[20:46]** ---

What's going on with Battle Board?

**[20:49]** ---

Two of the boys' races are over,  
and they both missed the cut.

**[20:53]** ---

We had one girl competing,  
and she qualified.

**[20:57]** ---

So that leaves us  
with just one more guy...

**[20:59]** ---

As for the girls, Ms. Mitsui, who's  
in the final race, is sure to qualify...

**[21:04]** ---

We can't have A-chan  
letting up any time soon...

**[21:08]** ---

It may be a good idea to put more effort into  
nurturing engineers at our school, don't you think?

**[21:16]** ---

Tatsuya, are you all right?

**[21:20]** ---

I'm fine.

**[21:22]** ---

I'm sure you already know this, but this is a totally  
different model than what you used in the prelims.

**[21:27]** ---

We're out of time, but if you feel any discomfort  
at all, I'll adjust it as much as possible,

**[21:31]** ---

so don't hold back.

**[21:34]** ---

There's no discomfort whatsoever.

**[21:36]** ---

Actually, it's such  
a good fit, it's creepy.

**[21:39]** ---

Is that right?

**[21:40]** ---

The others...

**[21:41]** ---

The other two both won, right?

**[21:43]** ---

Yeah.

**[21:44]** ---

Next is... My turn...

**[21:48]** ---

Don't worry.

**[21:49]** ---

If you perform like you always  
do, you can win, too.

**[21:54]** ---

Of course...

**[21:55]** ---

Since you've done everything to pave the way  
to victory for me, Tatsuya, all I have to do now is win.

**[22:03]** ---

No way am I gonna lose.

**[22:05]** ---

That's the spirit.

**SIGN** Nine Schools Competition Part VI

**SIGN** NEXT TIME

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