NCL Spring 2026 Team Game Scouting Report

Dear Benjamin Paris (Team "SANS.edu - Root Cause"),

Thank you for participating in the National Cyber League (NCL) Spring 2026 Season! Our goal is to prepare the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and your participation is helping achieve that goal.

The NCL was founded in May 2011 to provide an ongoing virtual training ground for collegiate students to develop, practice, and validate their cybersecurity skills in preparation for further learning, industry certifications, and career readiness. The NCL scenario-based challenges were designed around performance-based exam objectives of CompTIA certifications and are aligned to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

As you look to a future career in cybersecurity, we hope you find this report to be valuable in both validating skills and identifying areas for improvement across the nine NCL skills categories. You can use this NCL Scouting Report to:

- Validate your skills to employers in any job application or professional portfolio;
- Show case your achievements and strengths by including the Score Card view of your performance as part of your résumé or simply sharing the validation link so that others may view the detailed version of this report.

The NCL Spring 2026 Season had 7,520 students/players and 583 faculty/coaches from more than 440 two- and four-year schools & 220 high schools across all 50 U.S. states registered to play. The Individual Game Capture the Flag (CTF) event took place from April 10 through April 12. The Team Game CTF event took place from April 24 through April 26. The games were conducted in real-time for students across the country.

NCL is powered by Cyber Skyline's cloud-based skills evaluation platform. Cyber Skyline hosted the scenario-driven cybersecurity challenges for players to compete and track their progress in real-time.

To validate this report, please access: cyberskyline.com/report/CAJNNU8GMP6K

Congratulations for your participation in the NCL Spring 2026 Team Game! We hope you will continue to develop your knowledge and skills and make meaningful contributions as part of the Information Security workforce!

Dr. David Zeichick
NCL Commissioner

POWERED BY CYBER SKYLINE

NATIONAL CYBER LEAGUE SCORE CARD

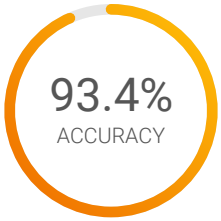
NCL SPRING 2026 TEAM GAME

NATIONAL RANK
91ST PLACE OUT OF 3634

PERCENTILE
98TH

YOUR TOP CATEGORIES

PASSWORD CRACKING	OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE	ENUMERATION & EXPLOITATION
100TH PERCENTILE	99TH PERCENTILE	99TH PERCENTILE



Average: 61.4%

cyberskyline.com/report
ID: CAJNNU8GMP6K

NCL Spring 2026 Team Game

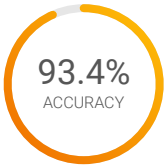
The NCL Team Game is designed for student players nationwide to compete in realtime in the categories listed below. The Team Game promotes camaraderie and evaluates the collective technical cybersecurity skills of the team members.

91 ST PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

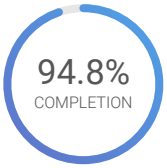
98th National Percentile

2800 POINTS OUT OF 3000
PERFORMANCE SCORE

Average: 1222.1 Points



Average: 61.4%



Average: 46.1%

Cryptography

360 POINTS OUT OF 360

87.5% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

Enumeration & Exploitation

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in code and compiled binaries.

Forensics

260 POINTS OUT OF 300

88.2% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **88.2%**

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.

Log Analysis

215 POINTS OUT OF 300

75.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **75.0%**

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to establish a baseline for normal operation and identify malicious activities using log files from various services.

Network Traffic Analysis

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

96.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Identify malicious and benign network traffic to demonstrate an understanding of potential security breaches.

Open Source Intelligence

370 POINTS OUT OF 385

93.6% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **97.8%**

Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

Password Cracking

355 POINTS OUT OF 355

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

Scanning & Reconnaissance

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

Identify and use the proper tools to gain intelligence about a target including its services and potential vulnerabilities.

Web Application Exploitation

240 POINTS OUT OF 300

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **88.2%**

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

Note: Survey module (100 points) was excluded from this report.

Cryptography Module

Identify techniques used to encrypt or obfuscate messages and leverage tools to extract the plaintext.

53 RD PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

99th National Percentile

360 POINTS OUT OF 360
PERFORMANCE SCORE

Average: 165.2 Points

87.5% ACCURACY

Average: 57.2%

100.0% COMPLETION

Average: 56.1%

Paper Chase (Easy)

30 POINTS OUT OF 30

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Manually extract a flag from an image of a punch card.

Hex password (Easy)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

66.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Recover a password that has been XOR-encrypted and encoded in UTF-16.

Decoding (Easy)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify and decrypt different cipher schemes.

Unc's Encryption (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Exploit poor implementation of ECDSA signatures through r value reuse.

Collisions (Medium)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Forge a message that produces a truncated SHA1 hash collision.

Checkpoint (Hard)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Flip bits in AES-CBC ciphertext to forge a trusted session token.

Enumeration & Exploitation Module

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in code and compiled binaries.

43 RD PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

99th National Percentile

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

Average: 166.3 Points

100.0% ACCURACY

Average: 74.0%

100.0% COMPLETION

Average: 60.6%

Getting into the Router (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Decompile a compiled python library and fix the bugs in it to retrieve the correct password.

Casserole (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Craft and execute a shellcode with NOP sleds in order to exploit a binary.

Malware Sample (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Chain a buffer overflow with a use-after-free vulnerability to bypass a software MTE simulator protecting a DGA botnet client.

Forensics Module

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to analyze, process, recover, and/or investigate digital evidence in a computer-related incident.

138 TH PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

97th National Percentile

260 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

Average: 155.4 Points

88.2% ACCURACY

Average: 51.5%

88.2% COMPLETION

Average: 52.0%

Parallel (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Carve out recursive file embedding in images and files using file signatures.

In Plain Sight (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

71.4% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify IoCs and extract a zip file using hex carving from an RTF document.

Reg Recon (Hard)

60 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 71.4%

Identify Indicators of Compromise in Windows registry.

Log Analysis Module

Utilize the proper tools and techniques to establish a baseline for normal operation and identify malicious activities using log files from various services.

312 TH PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

215 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

75.0% ACCURACY

75.0% COMPLETION

92nd National Percentile

Average: 177.9 Points

Average: 59.5%

Average: 63.7%

Unwelcome Robots (Easy)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	100.0% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Parse Apache combined log format access logs to identify a threat actor.			
Falling Off a Log (Medium)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	100.0% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Extract information from a common Linux log format.			
Survival Bias (Hard)	15 POINTS OUT OF 100	16.7% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 16.7%
Process and cross reference json logs and provided intelligence to synthesize key information.			

Network Traffic Analysis Module

Identify malicious and benign network traffic to demonstrate an understanding of potential security breaches.

95 TH PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

96.0% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

98th National Percentile

Average: 181.7 Points

Average: 64.4%

Average: 59.6%

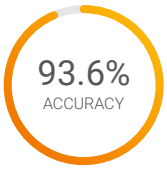
WitSec (Easy)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	100.0% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Extract an image from HTTP network traffic.			
Crafty Communique (Medium)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	91.7% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Extract information about players and chat messages from Minecraft server packets.			
What is on the LAN? (Hard)	100 POINTS OUT OF 100	100.0% ACCURACY	COMPLETION: 100.0%
Find specific devices and traffic types on a network from a packet capture.			

Open Source Intelligence Module

Utilize publicly available information such as search engines, public repositories, social media, and more to gain in-depth knowledge on a topic or target.

37 TH PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

370 POINTS OUT OF 385
PERFORMANCE SCORE



99th National Percentile

Average: 221.0 Points

Average: 62.3%

Average: 64.5%

Rules of Conduct (Easy)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Introductory challenge on acceptable conduct during NCL.

MEROPS (Easy)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify key search terms and execute search for information.

ATT&CKED (Easy)

75 POINTS OUT OF 75

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Research and distill threat reporting to map adversary Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) to the MITRE ATT&CK framework.

Boarding Pass (Medium)

90 POINTS OUT OF 90

91.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Decode a boarding pass barcode and use historical ADS-B data to discover information about a flight.

This Way Pleaae! (Medium)

35 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 75.0%

Interpret coded messages to uncover a targeted operation.

Tracking the Tracker (Hard)

75 POINTS OUT OF 75

77.8% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Cross reference Kismet GPS/WiFi/BLE logs with publicly available data.

Password Cracking Module

Identify types of password hashes and apply various techniques to efficiently determine plaintext passwords.

10 TH PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

355 POINTS OUT OF 355
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 178.2 Points

Average: 72.3%

Average: 59.5%

ID Me (Easy)

40 POINTS OUT OF 40

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify MD5, SHA256, bcrypt, and JWT strings.

Bitcoin Hashes (Easy)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Generate random strings and hash them until the output contains the requested characters.

Lightly Seasoned (Easy)

40 POINTS OUT OF 40

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use a known plaintext attack to extract a user's password from a database of hashed passwords.

2-Ways (Medium)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack wireless passwords from packet captures using aircrack-ng and hashcat.

l33t p45$vv0rclz (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Perform a wordlist attack by generating possible candidates from known behaviors.

Unlocking 2 (Hard)

80 POINTS OUT OF 80

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Generate BitLocker recovery key wordlists, crack the key, and decrypt the drive.

Scanning & Reconnaissance Module

Identify and use the proper tools to gain intelligence about a target including its services and potential vulnerabilities.

70 TH PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

99th National Percentile

Average: 183.5 Points

Average: 73.3%

Average: 62.4%

PrinT Farm (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Scan a target to identify vulnerable services and extract information.

Off Topic (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Scan an IoT network and subscribe to MQTT topics to identify IoCs.

AppScan (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze Static Application Security Testing tool outputs and develop a rule to improve vulnerability detection.

Web Application Exploitation Module

Identify actionable exploits and vulnerabilities and use them to bypass the security measures in online services.

92 ND PLACE OUT OF 3634
NATIONAL RANK

240 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY

88.2% COMPLETION

98th National Percentile

Average: 138.6 Points

Average: 59.8%

Average: 49.7%

Pairs (Easy)

80 POINTS OUT OF 80

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify sensitive data stored in HTML attributes.

Stylish (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Discover and validate a LESS.js Server Side Template Injection (SSTI) vulnerability.

Modern Tech Stack (Hard)

60 POINTS OUT OF 120

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 77.8%

Exfiltrate secrets using three advanced web vulnerability classes: type confusion, mutation XSS, and web cache deception.