NCL Spring 2026 Individual Game Scouting Report

Dear Andrew Brown,

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/KQR1RDUF968G

CompTIA

Based on the performance detailed in this NCL Scouting Report, you have earned 21 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as approved by CompTIA. You can learn more about the NCL - CompTIA alignment via nationalcyberleague.org/partners.

Congratulations for your participation in the NCL Spring 2026 Individual 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

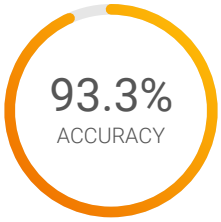
NCL SPRING 2026 INDIVIDUAL GAME

YOUR TOP CATEGORIES

FORENSICS	PASSWORD CRACKING	ENUMERATION & EXPLOITATION
100TH PERCENTILE	100TH PERCENTILE	100TH PERCENTILE

NATIONAL RANK
19TH PLACE OUT OF 7010

PERCENTILE
100TH



Average: 62.6%

cyberskyline.com/report
ID: KQR1RDUF968G

NCL Spring 2026 Individual Game

The NCL Individual Game is designed for student players nationwide to compete in realtime in the categories listed below. The Individual Game evaluates the technical cybersecurity skills of the individual, without the assistance of others.

19 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

3000 POINTS OUT OF 3000
PERFORMANCE SCORE

93.3%
ACCURACY

100.0%
COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 1048.5 Points

Average: 62.6%

Average: 40.3%

Cryptography

360 POINTS OUT OF 360

86.7% 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

93.8% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

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

Forensics

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

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

Log Analysis

300 POINTS OUT OF 300

95.2% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

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

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

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

Open Source Intelligence

385 POINTS OUT OF 385

90.2% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: **100.0%**

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

81.8% 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

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 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.

170 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

360 POINTS OUT OF 360
PERFORMANCE SCORE

86.7% ACCURACY
Average: 64.5%

100.0% COMPLETION
Average: 48.3%

98th National Percentile
Average: 143.0 Points

DW (Easy)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze and obtain the plaintext from text encoded with common number bases.

dorsCrypt (Easy)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Manually decode a custom pigpen substitution cipher.

Million Dollar Cat (Medium)

55 POINTS OUT OF 55

62.5% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Decode baudot telegram messages.

Mirror (Medium)

40 POINTS OUT OF 40

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Brute force a single byte XOR key to decode a message.

Lottery (Medium)

90 POINTS OUT OF 90

90.9% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Recover the internal seed from an insecurely used pseudo random number generator (PRNG).

Broken Signer (Hard)

75 POINTS OUT OF 75

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Compute an RSA private key from an unreliable signing oracle and decrypt the flag.

Enumeration & Exploitation Module

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

29 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

93.8% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 101.6 Points

Average: 41.0%

Average: 35.8%

Chrooted (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Research Linux system vulnerabilities and utilize an exploit against a vulnerable version of sudo.

Breads (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

83.3% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Reverse-engineer a C++ executable and find a hidden flag.

Liber8eze (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Exploit a running rust binary with a failure point being environment variable injection.

Forensics Module

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

12 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 95.5 Points

Average: 42.8%

Average: 31.4%

Fly High (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Extract hidden images concatenated from binaries and carve hidden information from images.

Remote Recovery (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use open source tools to recover Windows Remote Desktop bitmap images.

Heap Hunter (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze a process dump and recover IoCs related to a potential data exfiltration attack.

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.

98 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

95.2% ACCURACY
Average: 49.2%

100.0% COMPLETION
Average: 48.0%

99th National Percentile
Average: 151.5 Points

MCC (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100
83.3% ACCURACY
COMPLETION: 100.0%

Parse through simple csv logs using linux cmd line tools.

Cloudy, with a Trail of Logs (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100
100.0% ACCURACY
COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze CloudTrail EC2 logs to identify user behaviors and potential IoCs.

ADpocalypse (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100
100.0% ACCURACY
COMPLETION: 100.0%

Parse through .evtx logs to determine IoCs of a DCSync attack.

Network Traffic Analysis Module

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

71 ST PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY
Average: 39.7%

100.0% COMPLETION
Average: 40.3%

99th National Percentile
Average: 108.1 Points

Parsing DNS (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100
100.0% ACCURACY
COMPLETION: 100.0%

Parse packets containing network information and extract relevant fields for investigation.

Compressed Analysis (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100
100.0% ACCURACY
COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) techniques and conduct an effective post compromise analysis of network traffic.

Replay (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100
100.0% ACCURACY
COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyze a PCAP with ISO8583 messages and detect a replay attack.

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.

67 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

385 POINTS OUT OF 385
PERFORMANCE SCORE

90.2% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 237.4 Points

Average: 60.4%

Average: 71.1%

Rules of Conduct (Easy)

30 POINTS OUT OF 30

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Introductory challenge on acceptable conduct during NCL.

BSides (Easy)

55 POINTS OUT OF 55

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use open source tools to gather information about cybersecurity conferences.

Badge (Easy)

60 POINTS OUT OF 60

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Perform a reverse image search to identify information about an RFID card reader.

Shipping (Medium)

50 POINTS OUT OF 50

85.7% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use open source tools to collect information about foreign and domestic markets.

Futbol (Medium)

90 POINTS OUT OF 90

70.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Analyse historic data leaks to identify patterns and information for decisions.

Ergo Propter Hoc (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Trace back malicious actor movements through repositories, usernames, emails, and BTC addresses.

Password Cracking Module

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

13 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

355 POINTS OUT OF 355
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 100.7 Points

Average: 70.2%

Average: 37.1%

Hashed (Easy)

30 POINTS OUT OF 30

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Generate hashes for passwords with the MD5, SHA1 and SHA256 hashing algorithms.

Best64 (Easy)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack MD5 password hashes using Hashcat's best64 rules.

Upload (Medium)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack a zip archive and an encrypted text file.

Oph! (Medium)

45 POINTS OUT OF 45

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack Windows NTLM password hashes using rainbow tables

Unlocking (Medium)

90 POINTS OUT OF 90

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Crack Bitlocker user password to open an encrypted Windows drive

Serpens (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Write a custom tool to crack SQLcipher database passwords.

Scanning & Reconnaissance Module

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

380 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

81.8% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

95th National Percentile

Average: 116.5 Points

Average: 44.0%

Average: 38.1%

Dig it up (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Utilize DNS services to gain information about an organization's Intranet resources.

Scandiego (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Use reconnaissance techniques to identify information about avahi services on a remote machine.

Verified (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

60.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Scan a mail server, enumerate usernames and gain access to an IMAP service.

Web Application Exploitation Module

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

59 TH PLACE OUT OF 7010
NATIONAL RANK

300 POINTS OUT OF 300
PERFORMANCE SCORE

100.0% ACCURACY

100.0% COMPLETION

100th National Percentile

Average: 82.7 Points

Average: 35.0%

Average: 28.9%

Typing Racers (Easy)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Identify IDOR vulnerabilities to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive data.

Liber8tion File Store (Medium)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Bypass faulty proxy configurations and exploit a SQL injection to gain access to internal resources.

JS Vault (Hard)

100 POINTS OUT OF 100

100.0% ACCURACY

COMPLETION: 100.0%

Deobfuscate javascript to break insecure client-side secret storage.