

October 6, 2009

To: Science Olympiad A2 Head Coaches
From: Meredith Davis, Coordinator

Re: Update of the October 1 Meeting

- Last year's competition was discussed and a concern was expressed about students arriving late to an event due to their previous event running over its time limit. A hard and fast rule will not accommodate varying situations, so it was advised that students complete their event (i.e. launches) and then leave for their next event. Event managers should try to accommodate late arriving students if possible given their event and to keep their event within the time frame allowed. Coaches should try to schedule students so that they have adequate time to get to events that may be across campus.
- The Complete List of Study Themes has been revised this year to more closely reflect the State Science Standards. This list is attached and can also be found on our website at <http://www.sjcoe.org/sae/olympiada2.aspx>. The four areas under study for 2010 are Astronomy, Chemistry, Earth Science and The World of Science. All four areas and subcategories will be used for the Science Bowl event, however, The World of Science will deal only with the three other themes under study—Astronomy, Chemistry and Earth Science. For example, I will not be asking any questions on the history of physics or on great mathematicians. It was also suggested that the event managers for Picture This and Pentathlon do as we did last year and select just one subcategory from each of the themes under study to be covered on those two events. It will be up to the event managers to select the subcategories and let us know.
- I have attached the 2010 Schedule of Events and it can also be found on our website. Please note that it was updated on 10/2/09 and has been changed slightly (several locations were changed) from the one found in the agenda packet last week. This year I added the type of event to the schedule. The red numbers next to event names indicate the number of students per team allowed in that event. We prefer that each event have a minimum of 2 student participants, but in a pinch, some events could be done with a single student—hence the 1-2 designation on many events. The single number for events such as the 3 for Hot Air Balloons indicates that these events require those numbers of students. Please note that in the Pentathlon event, the 4 students can consist of any combination of boys and girls.
- I have also attached the Section Breakdown current as of 10/2/09. Only those teams for which I have received an Intent to Participate are listed to date.
- As decided last year, the event presentations which will begin at the November 5 meeting will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes each.

- The Rule Clarification Process will change slightly from last year. Event coaches at the school sites are still to pose their questions to the team(s) head coach who, in turn, will relay the questions to me, the event coordinator. I will relay the questions to the appropriate event manager **after filtering out questions** that are too focused or unnecessary for preparation of the students. Event descriptions that were too detailed actually had the effect of limiting the science experienced by the students and are contrary to the goals of the Science Olympiad program. I will then send the event managers' responses to the head coaches (name on the Intent) who will then pass the information out to their event coaches. These clarifications will also appear on our website. **Please note** that the clarification deadline will be Friday, March 12. No questions will be accepted after this date.

- I have attached an Event Manager Roster current as of 10/2/09. As you can see, we are still without managers for three events—Crime Busters, Reflection Relay and Mission Possible—and have Intents from several schools currently unassigned to an event. If it helps in making a decision, for Crime Busters I have the cups needed for powders (about 500), dropping bottles for the liquids and iodine. For Reflection Relay, all the equipment needed is already made and is available to the event manager. Mission Possible is just the ticket for those of you who just love simple machines. I would like all events covered as soon as possible—especially Mission since it is due to be presented next month.

- All forms needed for the 2010 Science Olympiad A2 competition can be found at <http://www.sjcoe.org/sae/olympiada2.aspx>. They are fillable online, but must be downloaded and faxed (468-9232) or mailed to us at P.O. Box 213030, Stockton, CA 95213, attention Meredith Davis.

- December 4 is the deadline for your Intent to Participate form however, Pam and I would appreciate getting them as soon as possible for planning purposes. Also, we are already at 40 teams for this year. WOW.

- Registration fees remain at \$100 per team. We do not accept Purchase Orders, but checks, warrants, or electronic transfers are welcome (the account number needed is located on the Fee Payment form). Fees must be paid prior to the competition or the team(s) may not participate. I am sorry to have to institute this policy, however, we are still invoicing teams from various events who have yet to pay their fees from last year.

- All students who attend the competition on March 27—that includes starters and alternates—must have a signed Student Permission form. These are due to this office by Friday, March 5, along with each team's Preliminary Registration form. The team roster lists the names of your starting team members and your alternates. You must send one in for each team. This information is key to our preparations for the event, so please have the forms in on time.

- The A2 event is open to 3rd through 6th graders. There is a maximum of 7 (seven) 6th graders allowed per team. No other grade restrictions apply. There is a maximum of two A2 teams per school.

- Each A2 team consists of a maximum of 18 students (there is no minimum) with no more than 5 alternates. Alternates can only be substituted in at the beginning of the event day and not once the competition begins, even if one of your starters goes home ill during the day. Should you already have the maximum number of 6th graders on your team, the alternate cannot also be a 6th grader.

- There are no minimum grade requirements for Science Olympiad participation according to the national rules. However, students must be eligible for extra curricular activities as established by their school.

- Just a reminder that the rule for all impound events (see the attached Master Schedule for designated impound events) is that students from the team need to take the device to the testing site between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m. This does not necessarily mean that they are the same students who will later do the event. What we want to avoid is having this become a parent instead of a student duty. The blue Team Identification sheets will not be required for impounding.

- Good sportsmanship is as important to the success of our event as having fun. Please stress this with your students and to all those accompanying your team to the event. Also please be aware that while students may certainly ask questions of the event managers, no student or parents are to approach an event manager with a complaint. Should there be a question regarding an event, the issue should be presented first to the head coach who will then see me. They may also fill out an appeal form stating the problem. Every attempt at a fair solution will be made.

- Scoring procedures remain the same as in past years. Students placing first in an event get individual gold medals and also earn 11 team points. Second place earns silver medals and 10 team points and so on. All scores below 10th place receive one team point—even teams that are disqualified in an event. The teams receiving the most points at the end of the day are the top winners. Recognition goes to all participating students and alternates in the form of zipper pulls. Team awards consist of team medals and plaques for places 10 to 1. Medals for first through sixth place go to student teams in all 24 events. \$100 Nasco gift certificates donated by the San Joaquin County Educational Foundation are given out randomly to eight participating schools.

- Also attached to this email is a list of important dates, a Competition Day Schedule, and a map of McNair High School. All can also be found on our website.

- Our next scheduled meeting is set for Thursday, November 5 in the Kingston Room of the ESC starting at 3:45. Event managers for the Build events need to be prepared to present at that time. Also presenting will be Rock Hound and Disease Detectives. I hope to see you all then.

- There is a correction to the 10/1 agenda—our next meeting date is November 5 but that falls on a Thursday, not a Tuesday as stated on the agenda.