

# San Joaquin County Science Olympiad Rules/Agreement (11.6.14)

*Follows closely rules/agreement to NorCal competition*

## **Conduct Agreement**

Student participants are expected to compete in tournament events with an honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the competition. The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. Students, coaches, parents and guests are expected to display courtesy and respect toward Olympiad officials, other teams and guests of the Olympiad. Failure to show honesty and/or courtesy by a participant, coach, or guest of the team may result in the disqualification of the team from that event, the entire tournament or future tournaments.

## **Coach**

I pledge to put forth my best effort in the Science Olympiad tournament and to uphold the principles of honest competition. In my events, I will compete with integrity, respect and sportsmanship towards my fellow competitors. I will display courtesy towards Event Supervisors and tournament personnel. My actions will exemplify the proud spirit of my school, team and state.

On behalf of the coaches, assistants and parents that are accompanying my team, I pledge to encourage honesty and respect for tournament personnel, our fellow coaches and other team members. We want our efforts to bring honor to our community and school.

## **Event Supervisor**

On behalf of my fellow supervisors and tournament personnel, I pledge to run my event with fairness and respect for the participants and their coaches. Our actions will reflect the principles of the Science Olympiad program and display the pride we feel as representatives of our colleges, universities, companies, states or organizations.

## **Team structure and advancing to State Finals**

Each registered team submits the NorCal Official Team List of up to 15 team members and no more than five alternate team members to their Regional Director prior to the start of the regional event. The list must include signatures from the coach, students and school principal. A maximum of five 9th grade (DIV B) & seven 12th grade (DIV C) students on a team is permitted. Regular team members may compete on one team only and cannot be listed as an alternate team member **on any team list**. Only team members from the winning schools **Official NorCal Team List (including alternate team members) may** participate in the NorCal State Finals. If a school has more than one team, the coach **may choose students from all of the schools Official NorCal Team Lists to participate. However, teams are encouraged to send participants from the winning Regional team whenever possible.** If a regular team member is unable to attend the state finals, then an alternate team member listed on the winning team's list can replace the student for the ENTIRE day. Alternate team members can be listed on both team lists but only as an alternate. It is not a requirement for alternate team members to have participated in the regional event. Each region sends the four top scoring teams from the four top scoring schools in each division (B & C) for a total of eight teams advancing to the state finals event.

## Device Impound: State and Regional

Only regular team members and registered alternate team members may impound a device. The team member(s) impounding a device does NOT need to be the student participating in the individual event.

## Team Sections

Teams will be assigned a section to follow on the Schedule of Events. If two teams are competing from the same school, both teams will be put in same section. However, the two teams do not work or collaborate together.

## Scoring Procedures: Regional and State Rules

1. Teams who were scored and had a raw score placed on the answer sheet are to be awarded points for each place as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place = 1 point, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 2 points, up to N<sup>th</sup> place. (Note: N = number of teams registered to compete for each division of the tournament, not the number of teams that actually enter the event.)
2. Ties: Every effort should be made to break ties following the guidelines under the scoring section of the event rules where applicable. In the rare event that a tie can't be broken, award points according to the place tied and then skip the next place (e.g., all teams that tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place get 3 points).
3. Teams/devices that **do not meet the requirements in the event rules** will be allowed to compete if possible and are to be scored and ranked below those who met all of the specifications. They will be awarded event points in relation to their rank. Event Supervisors may, at their discretion, allow students to modify any device before the expiration of the impound period. Supervisors and Officials may NOT provide assistance regarding the type of modifications or how to accomplish them prior to, or at any time during the tournament day.
4. Teams making an honest attempt to participate that **CANNOT** be assigned a raw score because of time, mechanical failure, wrong dimensions, etc., will be listed as a "P" for Participation for the raw score on the score sheet and will be awarded N points (N is equal to the number of teams registered to compete).
5. **No Shows:** If a team does not show up or does not make an honest attempt to participate, the team will be listed as a "No Show" or "NS" for the raw score on the score sheet and awarded N + 1 point. This includes teams who may be present but display no preparation for the competition.
6. **Disqualified:** Teams should be DISQUALIFIED or "DQ" only for misbehavior (to include excessive use of improper or vulgar language) or cheating. Put "DQ" as a raw score and award N + 2 points on the score sheet. Also note on the score sheet the reason why teams were disqualified. Event Supervisors may remove from competition any student(s) whose personal or ethical behavior does not adhere to the Science Olympiad Code. This action will disqualify the affected student(s) from participation and scoring in that event only. The Event Supervisor MUST inform the student and remind the student to inform their coach as soon as a problem occurs.
7. After all event points have been so-awarded, they are added and the team with the LOWEST number of event points is the first-place winner, the team with the second LOWEST number of event points is the second-place overall winner and so forth. In the event of a tie in the overall event points score, the team with the greatest number of first place event scores (one point/a gold medal winner) is deemed to have a higher overall standing. If both teams have

the same number of first place scores, then the number of second place scores will be used. The process is continued until the tie is broken.

8. Team points will not be given for an event that has been cancelled.

## **Posting Scores**

To discourage frivolous appeals and make the awards ceremony meaningful and dramatic, scores are not posted prior to the Awards Ceremony. Posting scores rarely reveals errors.

## **Final Score Appeal Process: Regional and State**

Even with checking, errors could occur, so coaches will be given 30 minutes after receipt of scores to appeal any **recording error**. Coordinators judgment calls are not subject to review. In case of an error, the policy is to not take away any medals or trophies, but to provide additional where appropriate. Individual event tests will NOT be reviewed **and will NOT be returned under any circumstances**.

## **Arbitration**

Arbitration will be available throughout the day to assist with issues that may arise. Individual event appeal forms will be available at the scoring room. A team coach or assistant coach of record must complete and sign the form and submit it to arbitration or deliver it to the scoring room. No one except the coach or the assistant coach of record may file an appeal. Please keep in mind that the Science Olympiad tournament is designed to “turn kids on” to science not turn them away, yet respect the needs of the Event Supervisor to provide a fair experience and a quality event.

## **Device Authentication: Regional and State Rule**

All devices to be used in the **current year** Science Olympiad competitions must have been newly constructed by one or more team members listed on the team list. The devices must NOT have been used in past Science Olympiad events. Note: see NorCal Official Team List for additional information. Also, see “Constructed Devices” under “Rules” on the NorCal Science Olympiad website.

## **Penalty points may be assessed for the following:**

### **Conduct**

For a student, coach, teacher, chaperone or parent entering a building or area where events are set up for the competition or are being held, without proper authorization to do so, five (5) penalty points may be assessed. Only those students actually competing in an event and those teachers who may be assigned to assist in the conducting of an event may enter areas where events are held. All other persons are to remain out of the building or the area at all times. For a student, coach, teacher, chaperone or parent interfering with or disrupting the conduct of an event, ten (10) penalty points may be assessed. Note this policy applies to any person in attendance at the Science Olympiad.

### **Vandalism and Theft**

If a team member or members or persons associated with a team commit(s) an act of vandalism or theft, the team will be disqualified from the competition and will receive no points. No member of that team will be awarded a medal in any event. An individual who commits an act of vandalism or theft may be barred from future competitions. Each sponsoring school must agree to pay the cost of repairing damage from any act of vandalism or theft. A school must pay this restitution before it can register a team for the Science Olympiad in a subsequent year. Vandalism means a deliberate action that

result in damage to property. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti, damage to facility property, and damage to the personal property of competitors, judges and spectators. I have read and understand the Northern California (NorCal) State Science Olympiad policy on acceptable behavior including the prohibition of vandalism, theft and discourtesy, and I have discussed this with the team members, and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by the NorCal State Science Olympiad officials.

## **Recommendations on Building and the Use of Tools**

*In Accordance with the Rules and Ethics of Science Olympiad*

The underlying principles and intent of the Science Olympiad establish a mandated student performance. Any project, device or assembly is to be constructed by a student or team of students. All components must be made by the student or, if permissible by the event rules, available by purchase. Students will assemble the device.

## **Safety Concerns and the Use of Tools**

Safety shall be of paramount importance. Students will be encouraged to use tools and technology within their age-related safety range. Certain tools and methods may be hazardous and beyond the abilities of various age groups. Specific tools may include power drills and saws, wood or metal lathes, welding equipment, milling machines or metal casting equipment. The use of chemicals should also follow age-appropriate use rules.

## **Guidelines for Adult Mentoring**

Adults may act as facilitators in the building process by asking questions, offering ideas or suggestions and providing references. The adult assistance may include teaching underlying principles, skills, use of tools and adherence to safety rules. No component of the project shall be constructed or assembled by an adult. The student must prepare the entire structure, including accompanying charts, graphs or notes. However, Science Olympiad endorses adult mentoring of teams and realizes that adults do instruct students on proper techniques on the use of tools. Providing an adult does not interfere with, alter, build or compromise the student or group design, adults MAY assist by performing restricted tasks not available to a student (such as drilling a hole in a metal plate or operating a power saw). This type of limited help does not compromise the integrity of a student-built device.

## **Investigation of Suspected Violation of Building and Tools Recommendations**

Tournament officials must rely on the integrity of principals, coaches, students and parents involved in Science Olympiad. Astute and professional Event Supervisors will be able to evaluate student compliance as such:

- Event supervisors may extensively question the lead student as to the design and construction of the device. Questioning may include the overall design and construction as well as the component parts and how they operate and function within the device. Other students on the device team may also be questioned.
- Each team coach will be required to certify that all work presented for the tournament complies with the Building and the Use of Tools Recommendations.