

TEAM COMPOSITION

A Science Olympiad team consists of up to 15 students, representing a single school. A team may have alternates, but only a maximum of 15 students may compete in the scoring events on tournament day. Alternates may compete in any trial events offered at tournaments.

The school represented must be the school of primary enrollment for all team members. Primary enrollment at a school is determined by what school holds the student's records and matriculates the student, and students may only be primarily enrolled at a single school – that school through which they are meeting the Virginia Department of Education general education requirements.

VASO organizes three Science Olympiad divisions:

- Division A (grades 3-5) – an introduction to the older divisions
 - 5th graders may participate in either Division A or B, but not both in a single school year.
- Division B (grades 5-9)
 - VASO allows 5th graders to compete on Division B teams, but advises coaches to consider their inclusion carefully in light of the Parent Participation policy prohibiting anyone other than team members from doing ANY construction on competition devices. No provision will be made for the younger age of 5th grade participants.
 - 9th graders may compete on a middle school team only if their school includes and terminates in 9th grade. If so, no more than five 9th graders are allowed on a Division B team. If the school contains grades higher than 9th, then 9th graders are expected to compete on the school's Division C team.
- Division C (grades 9-12)
 - No more than seven 12th grade students are allowed on a Division C team.

Please contact VASO if these grade divisions pose a distinct disadvantage to students of your school. VASO reserves the right to adjust this policy consistent with the broader mission of Science Olympiad.

SMALL SCHOOLS

Very small *public* schools may combine students to form one team if and only if the total combined enrollment of the schools is less than 300 students. Note that the total school enrollment is used to determine school size status, not just the number of students eligible to participate in a certain division. For example, VASO allows 5th and 6th grade students in elementary schools to participate in Division B, but it is the total enrollment of the elementary schools and not just the enrollment in the 5th and 6th grades of the schools.

HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Option 1: Participation through a Local Public School - If the school district in which a home schooled student resides allows home schooled students to participate in public school activities, home schooled students may either (1) choose to participate as a member of the

Science Olympiad team at the local public school they would attend were they not home schooled, or (2) form a home school team as set forth in Option #2, below.

Option 2: Participation through a Home School Team - VASO will recognize Home School Teams consisting only of students who live within the boundaries of two contiguous (side-by-side) geographic counties in Virginia. Please contact VASO if this policy poses a difficulty for your team. VASO reserves the right to adjust this policy consistent with the broader mission of Science Olympiad. Home-schooled students compete in the same division as the division they would be in if they were in public school.

PRIVATE, CHARTER, AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Private schools, “governor” schools, charter schools, and any other school that is qualified by the state and is housed in a single geographic location, may form Science Olympiad teams from among the students in their student body, regardless of where that student's home of origin is located. Such schools may not solicit or enlist public school or home-schooled students on their teams.

CYBER OR VIRTUAL SCHOOL (ONLINE) STUDENTS

Option 1: Participation through a Local Public School - If the state in which a cyber/virtual school student resides allows cyber/virtual school students to participate in local public school activities, cyber/virtual school students may either (1) choose to participate as a member of the Science Olympiad team at the local public school they would attend were they not enrolled in the cyber/virtual school, or (2) form a cyber/virtual school team from among the students in that school's student body as if they were students in a private/charter school as set forth above. A student may only participate on a single team.

Option 2: Participation solely through a State-Recognized Cyber or Virtual School - If the state in which a cyber/virtual school student resides recognizes and financially supports cyber/virtual schools, Science Olympiad will also recognize cyber/virtual school teams consisting only of students who are enrolled at that cyber/virtual school. Such schools may not solicit or enlist public school, private school or home-schooled students on their teams.

STATE TEAM

Only one team may represent a school at the VASO State tournament. The team representing the school at the state tournament may be comprised of ANY students from the school. This includes students who did not compete at a regional tournament. It is strongly suggested that the teacher or staff member Coach or Sponsor for a school communicate to potential participants at the beginning of the season the method by which students will be selected to represent the school at the state tournament.