



Science Olympiad
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February 10, 2022

To the Science Olympiad Community:

As we enter qualifying tournament season, and see a return to more traditional Science Olympiad experiences, I want to reemphasize Science Olympiad's commitment to providing a positive experience for students, teachers, families, [volunteers](#) and officials. As our [Code of Ethics](#) states:

The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship. Everyone is expected to display courtesy and respect.

Through our Student, Coach, Parent and Event Supervisor [Pledges](#) a clear standard of behavior is set for, and followed by, the 250,000 students per year in our Grade 6-12 competition as well as the adult coaches, parents, mentors, and volunteers who support them.

Let's face it – Science Olympiad is a competition, and people want to win. But when disputes arise, we have procedures in place to allow a team's Head Coach to challenge an event result – appeals, arbitrations, scoring waiting periods – which provide ample space to provide a counterpoint. Once results are final, however, we expect you to accept the results of competition, and celebrate everyone's success. Teamwork, cooperation and sportsmanship are as important to the Science Olympiad experience as science achievement.

Unfortunately, I've noticed a change in how people treat each other this past year or two, and it's a trend that I want to call out – and end. We should all be working together to ensure the safety and well-being of our competitors and volunteers. Science Olympiad is never the place to exercise your frustrations. There are no excuses for abusing a fellow competitor, an event supervisor or a tournament official. Raising your voice, bullying or harassing in person or online, or engaging in intimidation are all offenses of the Science Olympiad Code of Ethics. In the Code, we state possible consequences for such behaviors:

Failure by a participant, coach, or guest to abide by these codes, accepted safety procedures, or rules...may result in an assessment of penalty points, or in rare cases, disqualification by the tournament director from the event, the tournament, or future tournaments.

While rarely applied, sanctions including suspensions from participation are fully within the capacity of our tournament directors, state directors and national officials. Please remember your actions can and will have an effect on your team.

Let's work together in a cooperative spirit and have a great 2022 season.

Regards,

Jennifer Kopach
CEO
Science Olympiad



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PLEDGES

STUDENT'S PLEDGE

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.

COACH'S PLEDGE

On behalf of the coaches and assistants at this tournament, 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.

PARENT'S PLEDGE

On behalf of the parents and spectators I pledge to be an example for our children by:

- respecting the rules of Science Olympiad,
- encouraging excellence in preparation and investigation,
- supporting independence in design and production of all competition devices,
- and respecting the decisions of event supervisors and judges.

Our examples will promote the spirit of cooperation within and among all our participating teams.

EVENT SUPERVISOR'S PLEDGE

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.