



**Welcome to the beginnings of the 2025 Virginia Science Olympiad Division B/C season!** I'm excited to get going on another great season of Science Olympiad, and I hope you are, too. I've got some plans I'm really thrilled to share with you about what's coming in 2025.

Our big push this season is to provide more geographically regional opportunities and more choice in competition level for teams in order to expand participation in Science Olympiad across the state of Virginia. We've got teams that have been going for more than twenty years, and some that are just starting out, and we're hoping we've created a season vision that will allow all teams to get what they want out of Science Olympiad for this school year.

*(But first, before we get into the details - if you are no longer the Science Olympiad person at your school, please forward this to the appropriate person.)*

So, let's get to it:

- 1) **2025 Season Interest/Intent Form** - First things first, please take a moment to fill out [our interest/intent form](#) for the upcoming season. It only takes a few minutes, and it helps us begin our season planning. Even if you've been coaching for a number of years, it's still very useful for us to get updated contact information for you, your principal, your assistant coach, etc. And if you're new, this lets us know where you're at in your consideration of starting a team.
- 2) **Registration & Fees** - Registration will open on Tuesday, September 24. As a teacher and former coach, I know that sometimes the part that takes the longest in registration is the finance piece. To that end, we have released our pricing structure on the [VASO website](#) for this season in advance of the other registration materials.
  - **VASO Initiative continuing this year!** - If your team is a first- or second-year team outside of select northern Virginia counties, our VASO Initiative will pay for part or all of your team's registration! Check out the pricing structure for more information.
  - **Northrup Grumman Grant** - Northrup Grumman is once again contributing to VASO being able to offer a registration discount to schools with a higher proportion of economically disadvantaged students. Check out the pricing structure for more information.

- 3) **Division B/C Coach Kickoff Meeting - Saturday, September 7 at 9 AM on Zoom.**  
 Whether you are definitely participating this season or just exploring the option, if you fill out our interest/intent form, we'll send a Zoom link via email the evening of September 6 to all head coaches as well as designated assistant coaches and student leaders, as indicated in the form. We ask that team members and parents not be given this link once it is sent out; they are free to watch the recording of the meeting after it is posted on the VASO YouTube channel, but due to call capacity issues we cannot allow everyone to attend live.
- 4) **Event Rules and Schedules** - National Science Olympiad will release the [national rule books](#) on Tuesday, September 3 at 10 AM. Please note that VASO makes changes each season to the list of events we will run at our tournaments, including designating some events as States-only. Here is our expected list of events with those marked in **red** as ones that will not be run at (most) regionals:

<b><u>Life Science</u></b>		<b><u>Physics</u></b>
Anatomy & Physiology (B/C)		<b>Air Trajectory (B/C)</b>
Disease Detectives (B/C)		Optics (B/C)
Ecology (B/C)		Wind Power (B/C)
<b>Entomology (B/C)</b>		
<b>Microbe Mission (B/C)</b>		
<b><u>Earth-Space Science</u></b>		<b><u>Technology</u></b>
Dynamic Planet (B/C)		<b>Helicopter (B/C)</b>
Fossils (B/C)		<b>Mission Possible (B)</b>
<b>Meteorology (B)</b>		<b>Robot Tour (C)</b>
Reach for the Stars (B)		<b>Scrambler (B)</b>
Astronomy (C)		<b>Electric Vehicle (C)</b>
<b>Road Scholar (B)</b>		Tower (B/C)
<b>Geologic Mapping (C)</b>		
<b><u>Chemistry</u></b>		<b><u>Inquiry Events</u></b>
<b>Crime Busters (B)</b>		Codebusters (B/C)
Forensics (C)		Experimental Design (B/C)
<b>Potions &amp; Poisons (B)</b>		<b>Metric Mastery (B)</b>
Chemistry Lab (C)		<b>Bungee Drop (C)</b>
<b>Material Science (C)</b>		<b>Write It Do It (B/C)</b>

- 5) **Regional Tournaments** - We have a set of regional dates! Barring any changes (because as last season showed us, you never know what lies ahead), here are our planned regional tournaments:
- **February 8** - Tandem Friends School in Charlottesville (Div. C only)
  - **February 15** - Virginia Tech in Blacksburg *and* Centreville HS in Fairfax County (**both** tournaments as Divisions B and C)
  - **February 22** - Fairfax HS in Fairfax County (both Div. B and C)
  - **March 1\*** - University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg (both Div. B and C)

\*You likely caught the caveat I added on to our States-only event list, saying that those States-only events will not be run at **most** regionals. Inspired by a similar regional run by North Carolina, VASO is excited to announce that we will be hosting what we (and NC) call a National-Ready Regional on the March 1 date at University of Mary Washington where we will run **every event** (all 23 of them in each division), just like at the State tournament (though no trial ones). At all other regionals, we will run the list of events not in red (16 for each division).

We hope that this UMW National-Ready Regional tournament will draw teams interested in a highly competitive environment. In fact, for our trophy-winning teams from last year's State tournament, if they opt in to this National-Ready Regional, we will award them an automatic bid to this year's State tournament. For all other teams that choose the UMW regional, their state bids will be determined proportionally *without* the automatic bid teams included, just like at other regionals. (We'll definitely be talking through this at the kickoff meeting, as I know you may have questions.)

- 6) **Invitational Tournaments** - We also have a variety of Virginia programs planning to host invitational tournaments in person before our regional season begins, including Lake Braddock (Div B, Dec. 7), Flint Hill (Div C, Dec. 14), Fairfax (Div C, Jan. 11), and Virginia Tech (Div C, Feb. 1), and UVA (Div C, satellite, date TBD). [Check out our website](#) for info on those tournaments and other out-of-state ones as we receive updates.

(And if you're wondering about a State date, that's still to come, but we're aiming for no earlier than March 29.)

I hope this gives you and your teams enough information to start planning and getting excited for the season. Please make sure you take a look at [our website](#) for other information as well, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I hope to see you all virtually on September 7!

Emily Owens  
VASO State Director