

**OVMS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
2023-24**

I. CODE OF ETHICS & GENERAL RULES (*SOURCE WWW.SONIC.ORG*)

A. **Code of Ethics** - 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 (see Science Olympiad Pledges below). Teams are expected to make an honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the problem (not interpret the rules so they have an unfair advantage). Failure by a participant, coach, or guest to abide by these codes, accepted safety procedures, or rules below, 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.

1. Actions and items (e.g., tools, notes, resources, supplies, electronics, etc.) are permitted, unless they are explicitly excluded in the rules, are unsafe, or violate the spirit of the problem.

2. While competing in an event, participants may not leave without the event supervisor's approval and must not receive any external assistance. All electronic devices capable of external communication as well as calculator applications on multipurpose devices (e.g. laptop, phone, tablet) are not permitted unless expressly permitted in the event rule or by an event supervisor. Cell phones, if not permitted, must be turned off. At the discretion of the event supervisor, participants may be required to place their cell phones in a designated location.

3. Participants, coaches and other adults are responsible for ensuring that any applicable school or Science Olympiad policy, law or regulation is not broken. All Science Olympiad content (e.g., policies, requirements, clarifications, FAQs, etc. on soinc.org) must be treated as if it were included in the printed rules.

4. All pre-built devices presented for judging must be constructed, impounded, and operated by one or more of the 15 current team members unless stated otherwise in the rules. If a device has been removed from the event area, appeals related to that device will not be considered.

5. Officials are encouraged to apply the least restrictive penalty for rules infractions (see examples in the [Scoring Guidelines](#)). Event supervisors must provide prompt notification of any penalty, disqualification, or tier ranking.

6. State and regional tournament directors must notify teams of any site-dependent rule or other rule modification with as much notice as possible, ideally at least 30 days prior to the tournament.

B. Science Olympiad Pledges

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

C. Prohibition on Certain Uses of Personal Data

1. The misuse of personal data, email addresses, phone numbers, social media accounts, or other relevant information for purpose other than those related to OVMS Science Olympiad by any student, parent or coach, in a manner that harasses or may harass another individual or that violates the rules of ethics or policies of Oak Valley Middle School and/or Poway Unified School District, is strictly prohibited.

2. Violation of these rules may result in removal of the student and/or parent from the OVMS Science Olympiad program. Furthermore, we reserve the right to contact the school principal for further disciplinary proceedings.

II. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR OVMS REGIONAL TEAMS (TOP 90 STUDENTS)

- A. Leadership Team** – The Leadership Team shall consist of the Head Coach, Co-Head Coaches and the Data Analyst. Other team members may be appointed to provide analytical, administrative, and organizational assistance as determined by the Leadership Team, such as Treasurer, Invitationals Coordinator, Website Coordinator, and Events Coordinators.
- B. Class Scoring** – Coaches will set forth their method of grading students, whether by quizzes, tests, assessments of work completed, attendance, etc. All students will be assigned a random Identification Number to protect their identity and to keep the scoring “blind.”
- C. Point System** – The following uniform scoring system will be used for all students in determining which students will advance to the Regional Team. There is a 5 point maximum for any student, with a maximum of 5 events for any student.
1. Previous medal holders at the Regional from last 2 years: 1.0 POINT MAX
 2. State medal winners from last 2 years: 1.0 POINT MAX
 3. Highest marks in the tests, quizzes for lab/study events, and highest marks for effort and quality of the design in building events. Points will be assigned as follows:

CLASS RANKING	PONTS EARNED	MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF EVENTS WITH THIS RANKING
Top 3	0.7	X number of events
Top 5	0.6	X number of events
Top 10	0.5	X number of events
Top 12	0.4	X number of events
Top 15	0.3	X number of events

4. Parent Volunteer points (maximum 1 POINT for any student)
 - Coaches/Leadership Team: 1 POINT
 - Assistant Coach: 0.5 POINT
 - Treasurer/Other Coordinators: 0.3 POINT

For example: Andrew currently is an 8th grader who participated in SO for the first time last year while a 7th grader. They were placed 3rd at Regionals in one event.

This year, their mom is coaching an event and their dad is an assistant coach for another event. Andrew is taking 3 events. They ranked 2nd in the first event, 4th in the second event, and 13th in third event for their classes based upon each coach's scoring system. Andrew's points would be calculated as...

- o Regional medal/ribbon winner from last 2 years: **1.0 POINT**
 - o State medal winner from last 2 years: **0.0 POINT**
 - o SO Event Class placement points:
 - For the first event... $0.7 \times 1 = 0.7$*
 - For the second event... $0.6 \times 1 = 0.6$*
 - For the third event... $0.3 \times 1 = 0.3$*
 - So, the total in this subsection would be $0.7 + 0.6 + 0.3 = 1.6$ POINTS*
 - o Parent Volunteer points... **1 POINT**
- Andrew's total SO points = 1.0 + 0.0 + 1.6 + 1.0 = 3.6 POINTS**

- D.** Students can be dropped from an event or requested to switch events in order to ensure the OVMS Science Olympiad Regional Team is fully represented at any and all competitions.
- E.** In case of the conflict of the point while selecting the Regional Team, preference may be given to students whose parents are coaches, assistant coaches or volunteers described in item II.

III. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE STATE TEAM (15 Students)

- A.** Formation of the State Team, including alternates and/or trial event students, is based on many factors, including a student's individual performance at Regionals, Invitationals, and previous State Team selection. The Leadership Team will also consider the student's event representation, team performance, any outside obligations other than Science Olympiad, and other criteria as necessary. The team members may be selected from across the 6 school teams based on the above criteria.
- B.** Students may be requested to switch events in order to ensure the OVMS Science Olympiad State Team is fully represented at the competition.

IV. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- A.** Parents will email the Coach first to resolve the matter. If the matter cannot be resolved, the Coach and/or the Parents will email the Team Captain or the Leadership Team with questions. Every attempt will be made to reply to and resolve the issue within 2-3 days.
- B.** Parents are discouraged from making comparisons to other students.
- C.** The Leadership Team will keep all matters private when communicating quantitative data.
- D.** The scores and rankings of students will not be shared or published to maintain students' rights to privacy. No one other than members of the Leadership Team and the Oak Valley Middle School principal will be permitted access to this information.
- E.** The decision of the Oak Valley Middle School Science Olympiad Leadership Team is final, and failure to abide by the policies listed in this document, including by parents and coaches, may result in removal of the student from the OVMS Science Olympiad program.

V. ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITY

- A.** Parents and students assume all liability for their own health safety when participating in classes, preparing for events, building devices, or participating in any competitions, virtual or otherwise, and agree to hold harmless Oak Valley Middle School, the volunteer parent and student coaches, and the Leadership Team for any injuries or illness that result from participation in these events.
- B.** Parents understand and agree to discuss appropriate online behavior for their students while participating in Science Olympiad. Any repeated concerns related to inappropriate or disruptive behavior by a student while participating in Science Olympiad may result in their removal from the program.

VI. CLASSROOM MATERIAL

- A.** All instructional materials supplied by the coaches will exclusively be accessible to regional student team members after the formation of the regional team. Access to other students will be denied.
- B.** All materials provided belong to OVMS SO. Sharing of material outside OVMS is prohibited.