

# CODE OF ETHICS FORM

Students, coaches, event supervisors, parents, and guests are expected to follow current Science Olympiad Rules. One of the foundational goals of the competition is to have an individual give their best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship, and not violate the spirit of the problem. All are expected to display courtesy and respect toward one another. Failure to show honesty or courtesy by a participant, coach, or guest of the team may result in penalty points being assessed or disqualification of the team from the event, the entire tournament or future tournaments. Our collective example will promote the spirit of cooperation among all participants. Therefore the following will apply

1. Teams may not interpret the rules so that they have an unfair advantage over the rules or another team. The Event Supervisor(s) and/or the Arbitration Committee will make all determinations regarding these types of issues.
2. Unless otherwise stated, it is generally understood that if **writing utensils**, notes, resources, calculators, actions, etc., are not excluded, then they are permitted unless they violate the spirit of the problem.
3. All non-permitted electronic devices must be turned off and if so directed, left in a designated area or location.
4. Once teams have entered the event area to compete, they must not: leave until they are finished, return once they have left, communicate with outside resources, including people, places, etc. by any means (this effectively excludes the use of any computer, PDA, calculators, wireless devices, phones, etc. that have access to external communication or data retrieval during an event unless specifically permitted).
5. Safety is of the utmost importance. Event supervisors are obligated to prevent unsafe acts and devices. Safety decisions are not subject to appeal. Students should not risk being penalized for safety violations such as activating devices or removing goggles without supervisor permission. Contestants must not bring harmful items to a tournament. Teams may only bring items that are specified in the rules.
6. Coaches, teachers, parents, students, and other adults are responsible for ensuring that any applicable laws, regulations, and school policies are not broken.
7. One or more of the 15 current team members must have constructed all pre-built devices presented for judging. Any of the current team members may demonstrate or operate the device at the competition unless stated otherwise in the rules.
8. Any person designated by the coach can impound devices unless stated otherwise in the rules.
9. Depending upon the level of an infraction, at the supervisor's or tournament official's discretion, a student or team may be penalized, removed from the event at that point, or disqualified.

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CODE OF ETHICS

Student participants are expected to compete in tournament events with honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the competition. Team members are expected to be the builders of all the devices used in the events. 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.

## 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 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.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AT SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The following scenarios for photography and/or videography at Science Olympiad are acceptable:

- Parents can photograph or film their own children as long as it does not violate the rights of other students in the frame, interfere with an event or divulge any protected information, such as a test page or lab set up for an upcoming event.
- Schools may post photos and/or videos of themselves on a school web site for promotional purposes. Schools may take pictures and/or videos of their team preparation to show other schools or to promote their activities in Science Olympiad to educational entities, like their local school board or community groups. Permission from the parents of the students' being posted, in any format, should be done in accordance with state law and their schools' and districts' policies.
- Schools may participate in the filming of nationally-sanctioned event and tournament videos of regional, state and national competitions for the school's own promotional use, if produced by: 1) the official film agent/photographer(s) and/or videography(s) of Science Olympiad, or 2) host institutions.

The Following scenario for photography and/or videography at Science Olympiad is NOT acceptable and may result in disqualification of a team participating in the photographing or videotaping:

- A student participant, parent, coach, or visitor of a team takes video or still images of a tournament event without the subject's permission and posts them online on a web page or public video source, such as YouTube.
- A student brings a recording device (a camera phone, a microphone, any digital recording device, whether sound, still or video) into a tournament event and uses those images for a competitive advantage (such as selling the information to a team advancing to the next level; passing the information along to another team; giving the protected content to a rival science competition or publishing entity). Any proof of this kind of activity will disqualify a student from Science Olympiad for a period of time determined by the State Science Olympiad organization, in which the prohibited activity occurred, with ultimate oversight by the Science Olympiad National Executive Board.