

## ARBITRATION

### A. Philosophy.

The arbitration team shall operate on the principles of fairness, insight/common sense, impartiality, and intelligence in response to participants. The members must have a thorough knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the rules... read the rules-know the rules-follow the rules. There shall be no connection to a single participating team by individuals of the committee.

### B. Facilities/Materials

1. A room close to headquarters but with capability of separation by closed doors.

### C. Composition:

1. A team of three members.

### D. Procedure for filing an appeal

#### **1. Coaches only may file an appeal**

2. Appeal form must be fully completed and signed by the coach prior to submitting it to the arbitration committee.
  - Identify the rule/procedure misinterpreted or not followed including the specific page number and section from the Science Olympiad rules manual
  - Detail how the rule procedure was not followed
  - A suggestion as to how the situation shall be rectified or resolved.
  - **The event supervisor's response or opinion including the supervisor's signature. Do not interrupt the supervisor while the event is being judged.**
3. Attempt to resolve the dispute with the Event Supervisor and/or tournament officials before officially presenting the appeal form to the arbitration board.
4. Arbitration board's sequence.
  - Thoroughly read the appeal in private
  - Consult with the appealing coach
  - If necessary visit event site and supervisor for on-site examination and discussion **without the coach.**
  - Return to arbitration headquarters and reach a decision
  - Address the coach with a final ruling

### E. Considerations

1. ***Appeals pertaining to "other teams" are discouraged.***
2. Event supervisors shall not advise students on changes to a device upon impounding, practice, or preparation.
3. Resolution of appeals at the lowest level possible.
4. Coaches / event supervisors must exhibit collegial respect and friendliness - especially in front of students.

#### THE ARBITRATION BOARD /ROOM **IS** FOR:

- Coaches appeals only
- Dialogue of respectful disagreement
- Strict/spirit of rules interpretation
- Honest questioning of procedures
- Site tournament procedures
- Event supervisors to present their view
- Arbitration board only
- Impartiality

#### THE ARBITRATION BOARD/ROOM **IS NOT** FOR:

- Parents, school administrators, students
- Vendettas toward other teams/coaches
- Attempts to bend the rules for self-gratification
- Complaints about tournament personnel
- How it was done at a previous tournament
- Event supervisors' wounded egos
- Lost souls
- School affiliation hidden agendas

## APPEAL FORM

### Instructions for filing an appeal

**Remember that event supervisors are extremely busy during competition. Do not interfere with an event in progress.**

- Make an attempt to resolve the problem with the event supervisor before filing a written appeal.
- This form must be turned in to tournament headquarters **within 1 hour after the completion of the event.** If circumstances prevent filing within this time limit, the appeals committee may, at their discretion, accept a late appeal.
- Be specific in your appeal. Identify the exact rule/procedure that you feel was not followed. The appeals committee may reject appeals that are general in nature. **The official coach of the team must sign this form.**
- **The event supervisor must sign this form before it is submitted to the appeals committee.** If time permits he/she may enter their response on this form, or enter the time notified, initial and respond to the appeals committee before the final scoring for the event is completed.
- The decision of the appeals committee is final.

Event \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

**What Rule/Procedure** do you feel was not followed? (Must cite specific page # and paragraph # from Rules Manual)

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**Evidence Submitted/Witnesses** (Attach additional information if applicable)

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**Suggested Solution:**

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Appealing Coach's Signature

**Event Supervisor's Opinion:** Do not interrupt completion of event, if the supervisor is too busy to write an opinion, ask them to initial the form so they know it is being delivered (\_\_\_\_ initials \_\_\_\_ time)

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Event Supervisor's Signature

**Arbitrator's Resolution:** (The decision of the arbitrators is final)

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Official's Signature