



Official NorCal State Tournament Rules Updated July 30, 2022 – Changes in Bold

NorCal Science Olympiad Regional & State Tournament Rules

School Team Registration: Regional and State Rule – Participation in a Science Olympiad tournament requires the following:

- All teams must have approval of the school's principal to participate
- The school principal must verify that their team's participation in a tournament is considered to be a school sponsored/school sanctioned event that is covered by the school district's insurance
- The school principal must approve the team's lead coach
- All district and school rules, as well as tournament rules, must be followed

Second Teams: Regional and State Rule - A second team from the same school can compete at the regional level. The decision to allow more than two teams from a school site to participate in a regional event is up to the discretion of the Regional Director. Each team is considered a separate team of up to 15 students and no more than 5 alternates. National rules state that "each team must have a separate paid membership." The **Four** top scoring teams from different schools in each division (B & C) at a Regional tournament advance to the State Finals until further notice. Only one team per school advances to the State Finals tournament.

Code of Conduct Violations or Disqualifications: Regional and State Rule – Following are steps to be taken for violations or disqualifications:

- Inform the Coach and student(s) of the violation or disqualification
- Talk to the student and the Event Coordinator to determine the facts
- Verify that the violation occurred
- Arbitration Board to decide immediate consequences:
 - DQ from event
 - DQ from any event in which student was involved
 - Team prevented from further participation in Regional and/or State competition
- Arbitration Board can also recommend long-term consequences (for a time to be determined by the Regional/State Director and the Arbitration Board):
 - Individual(s) DQ from future events
 - Team put on provisional status
 - Team disqualified from future Regional and State competitions

Team structure and advancing to State Finals: State Rule - Each registered team submits the NorCal Official Team List of up to 15 team members (see National rules) and no more than five alternate team members to their Regional Director prior to the start of the regional tournament. The list must include signatures from the coach, school principal and Regional Director. A copy of the original team list for winning teams will be included in the State Finals registration packet. A maximum of five 9th grade (DIV B) & seven 12th grade (DIV C) students on a team is permitted (see National rules).

Regular team members may compete on one team only and cannot be listed as an alternate team member on any team list. Only team members from the winning schools Official NorCal Team List (including alternate team members) may participate in the NorCal State Finals. If a school has more than one team, the coach may choose students from all the schools Official NorCal Team Lists to participate. However, teams are encouraged to send participants from the winning Regional team whenever possible. If a regular team member is unable to attend the state finals, then an alternate team member listed on the winning team's list can replace the student for the ENTIRE day. Alternate

team members can be listed on both team lists but only as an alternate. It is not a requirement for alternate team members to have participated in the regional event.

To support and expand the Science Olympiad program, the NorCal Regional Directors made the decision to welcome schools from outside the Regional areas that do not have an established program, providing them the same opportunity to participate in the program. Regional Directors have the option to ensure that an "invited" team does not displace a local team from advancing to the state finals event (open to middle, Division B, and high school, Division C, level only). The Regional Director has the option to invite an additional team to the state event if an "invited" team places in the top four spots thereby avoiding displacing local teams. Regions also can decide if invited teams participate equally with local teams in regard to medals and overall team awards, or if they are eligible for individual awards and not overall team awards.

Device Impound: State AND REGIONAL Rule - Only regular team members and registered alternate team members may impound a device. The team member(s) impounding a device does NOT need to be the student participating in the individual event **unless specified in the official rule book**. Adults, including parents and coaches, are NOT allowed to impound or be present at the impound site.

Pre-register Events: State Rule – Teams advancing to the State Finals will use the **current** event sign up system for "team number/building" events.

Team Numbers: State Rule - At the annual Regional Directors meeting, Directors will be assigned eight team numbers for their regional teams advancing to the State Finals. Immediately following the regional awards ceremony winning team coaches will receive their State Final team number from their Regional Director.

Scoring Procedures: State Rule, recommended for Regional – The lowest scoring team in each division at the NorCal State Finals advances to the National Science Olympiad. The scoring formula used at the National Science Olympiad Event will be used at the NorCal State Finals Event and is as follows: 1st place = 1 point, 2nd place = 2 points, etc. A team that is a "no-show" will receive N+1 point (where N = the number of participating teams), and a disqualification (DQ) for cheating or excessive use of vulgar language will receive N + 2 points. Where National rules do not indicate what to do if a team makes an honest attempt but cannot be scored due to time, mechanical failure, etc., the rule will be that the team receives N points for PARTICIPATION. The team can participate in the event if the Event Supervisor and/or an arbitrator determine it safe to do so. If an event is cancelled due to an error while testing/scoring it is up to the arbitration team to decide if individual awards are given for the event. Team points will not be given for an event that has been cancelled.

If there is no tiebreaker, or teams are still tied with a tiebreaker, then the teams receive the same score and award if applicable for that event. If teams are tied for overall points, then the number of gold medals won (then silver, and then bronze) determines who advances to the National Finals.

Example: Two teams score the same in an event with or without a tiebreaker and are in first place in that event. Both teams receive one point and are given gold medals. The next highest scoring team is in third place with a bronze medal and three points. There would be no second-place team in that event.

It is recommended that the scoring procedures mentioned above are adopted at regional level.

Awards at the state tournament will remain as follows: gold, silver, and bronze medals for first, second, third, fourth and fifth place.

Posting Scores: State Rule - No scores or best times will be posted.

Final Score Appeal Process: Regional and State Rule - The final team scores will be available to each team coach upon completion of the awards ceremony. Team coaches will be given thirty minutes after completion of the Awards Ceremony to appeal their team's scores. Event Supervisor judgment calls are not subject to review. Individual event tests will NOT be reviewed and will NOT be returned under any circumstance.

Arbitration: State Rule - An Arbitration Board, made up of one or more of the following: the State Director, Regional Directors and others as approved by the State Director. The Arbitration Board will be available throughout the day to assist with issues that may arise. Individual event appeal forms will be available at the scoring room. A team coach or assistant coach of record must complete and sign the form and submit it to an arbitration board member or deliver it to the scoring room. No one except the coach or the assistant coach of record may file an appeal. Please keep in mind that the Science Olympiad tournament is designed to "turn kids on" to science not turn them away yet respect the needs of the Event Supervisor to provide a fair experience and a quality tournament.

Volunteer: State Rule - Each region will be assigned events and must provide an event supervisor and all assistants for each assigned event. The number of events assigned to each region is dependent upon location in relation to the host site. If a region is unable to provide supervisors and assistants, then the event will be *cancelled*. Regional Directors requesting a specific event assignment or changes to event assignments must consult with the State Director.

Device Authentication: Regional and State Rule - All devices to be used in the current year Science Olympiad competitions must have been newly constructed by one or more team members listed on the team list. The devices must NOT have been used in past Science Olympiad events. Note: see NorCal Official Team List for additional information. Also, see "Constructed Devices" under "Rules" on the NorCal Science Olympiad website.

Emergency Situations: Regional and State Rule - If an emergency situation exists in any year as determined by the National Science Olympiad (NSO) organization, then NSO has the right to make changes to the tournament rules of play. NSO has determined that such an emergency exists for 2021 tournaments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See "Tournament" on the National website at www.soinc.org/play/tournaments for ways to play until further notice. The rule applies for all Regional, State, and Invitational tournaments. Tournament Coordinators determine which rule of play will be used.

Team fees for NorCal State Finals: Current year team fees are **\$300** and payable to the California Science League.

NorCal Science Olympiad Rule Changes for the State Tournament and ALL Regional Tournaments

Events with Device Test and Written Test: If a team does not bring a device to test that resembles the device as detailed in the National event rules, then the team will be placed in tier 2.

All Events Allowing Notes: If a team chooses to use two sheets of paper for notes in place of one sheet of paper, then the two sheets **MUST** be laminated so they cannot be pulled apart.

Note: Event Supervisors cannot make exceptions to any tournament or event rules, including the rule changes listed above.