



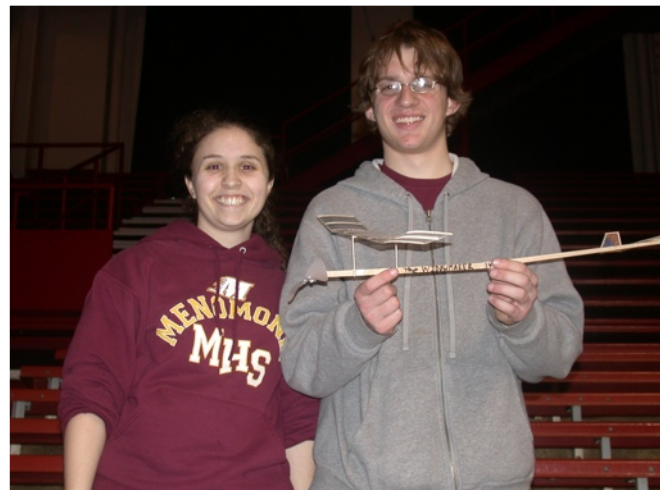
**Wisconsin  
Science  
Olympiad**

# SOURCEBOOK for Coaches

FOR WISCONSIN DIVISION C - HIGH SCHOOL

## Welcome to WSO 2009!

*Welcome to the 25th Annual Science Olympiad Program. You are to be congratulated for choosing to participate in North America's most prestigious team science and technology competition.*



### MENOMONIE HIGH SCHOOL 2008 WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONS

#### *Wisconsin Science Olympiad, Inc.*

*is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, creating a passion for learning science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and*

This SourceBook is intended to be a supplement to the NSO Coaches Manual and Official Rules and to the many Science Olympiad web sites. As both of these publications are printed in late summer, it is vital and com-

PELLING that the many web sites be accessed regularly & often. On those web pages will be posted current schedules, possible changes, FAQs, rules clarifications, and latest event updates, and much more info.

WSO Website:  
[wisconsinso.org](http://wisconsinso.org)

NSO Website:  
[soinc.org](http://soinc.org)



students attend Science Olympiad for the first time, they usually return each year until they graduate from high school. Many schools report increased student interest in science and increased enrollments in science classes. Last year, over 14,000 elementary and secondary teams from Canada and all 50 States participated in the Science Olympiad programs.



6-9); and Division C (grades 9-12). For Division B, only 5 ninth graders and for Division C, only 7 12th graders are allowed on the team. However, any given eighth or ninth grader can compete at only one division level. Students must be from the membership school. Recruiting from neighboring schools, districts, counties or states is not permitted. A school is considered to be a separate school if it has a separate administrator. National Tournaments are held for the Div B and Div C Teams. There is not a national tournament for elementary schools, so schools may wish to initiate local school, district, or even regional competitions.

# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD BACKGROUND

## Team Work

All Science Olympiad events require teamwork, group planning and cooperation. The emphasis is on learning, participation, interaction, having fun and developing team spirit.



The Science Olympiad is modeled after the successful science tournaments held in Delaware and Michigan that were introduced by Dr. Gerard J. Putz and Dr. Jack Cairns. If success can be measured by the number of students participating, then the Science Olympiads are successful. Attendance has increased steadily in most states. After

## Divisions/Grades

Currently there are four Science Olympiad divisions: Divisions A1 (grades K-3); Division A2 (grades 3-6); Division B (grades

## Wisconsin Division C Executive Team

### State Director WSO President

Dr. Forrest Schultz

UW-Stout

[schultzf@uwstout.edu](mailto:schultzf@uwstout.edu)  
715-232-5009

### Vice President WSO

Dr. Charles Bomar

UW-Stout

### Director of Events

Steven E. Schultz

# WSO Communications

*Those students and coaches that are successful establish and maintain vital lines of communication to enable them to have complete and up-to-date information about the dates of tournaments, the present events, the Official Rules, the latest rule's clarifications, the pertinent schedules and other information. These lines of communications are to be established using the National Science Olympiad web pages, the Wisconsin Science Olympiad web pages, the WSO Message Board, and the WSO tournament registration and scoring system called AVOGADRO.*

## **1. COACHES MANUAL AND RULES**

The Official Annual publication of the National Science Olympiad. This booklet contains the Official Rules for each event. This booklet is the only source for those Official Rules and is available only to those teams that have paid the membership fee and have joined a Science Olympiad state organization. These Rules are not posted on the internet. These Rules are copyrighted and, therefore, have strict limitations placed on their use. This use is described within the Coaches Manual. Much additional info, general rules, teaching guides, team organization, scheduling, etc., is discussed in this Manual.

## **2. NATIONAL SO WEB SITE**

The internet URL for the National Science Olympiad organization is: [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org). This site contains huge amounts of info about Science Olympiad, about events, about resources, about Workshops and many other topics. Opening the individual events pages will provide rules clarifications and up-dates, and lists of resources that will be helpful in preparing for those events. Although the Official Rules for each event will not change, it is to be expected that there will be FAQs and rules clarifications up to and including

the final day before the tournaments. It is recommended that these web pages be accessed often.

## **3. WISCONSIN SO WEB SITE**

The URL for WSO is [www.wisconsinso.org/divc/](http://www.wisconsinso.org/divc/) These pages contain information pertinent to the Wisconsin Invitational, Regional, and State Tournaments. Pages are available that will give details about the process of joining WSO, the events offered at tournaments, requirements for the team roster, registering for events, forms to download, coaching help for organizing a team, suggestions for Regional Event Supervisors, general competition rules, use of electronic devices, Code of Conduct, and much more.

## **4. WISCONSIN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD MESSAGE BOARD**

It is required that the Head Coach log-on to the WSO Message Board. Much information is exchanged and any concerns or questions about the events and other aspects of Science Olympiad are entered into the Message Board throughout the year. These concerns and questions will receive comments and answers upon posting them on the WSO Message Board. Direct communication regarding Rules, Scoring and/or Clarifications between a Team and a State Event Supervisor is NOT permitted either before the State Tournament or after the State Tournament.

## **5. AVOGADRO**

Avogadro is the Scoring Management System for WSO. All Coaches are required to enter the names of student participants and their chosen events one month before the State Tournament.

## 2009 Timetable and Checklist

DATE	EVENT
November 7-8, 2008	Milwaukee School of Engineering Coaches Clinic – excellent for both New and Veteran Coaches
Nov 21, 2008	Membership Form and Fee for Division C Due at UW–Stout
Dec 20, 2008	State Event Schedule Posted
Dec 6, 2008	2nd Annual Boyceville Invitational
Jan 31, 2009	East Central Regional– UW Oshkosh
Feb 7, 2009	South East Regional– UW Milwaukee
Feb 21, 2009	North Regional– UW Marathon County
Feb 21, 2009	South Regional– Edgewood College
Feb 28, 2009	West Regional– Menomonie HS
Mar 1, 2009	Deadline for Science and Technology Experience in Western Wisconsin Registration
Mar 4, 2009	Deadline for Entering Team Events for State Tournament in Avogadro
Apr 3, 2009	Science and Technology Experience in Western Wisconsin
Apr 4, 2009	Please Note: ACT Test Date
Apr 4, 2009	Div C State Tournament UW–Stout
Apr 4, 2009	State Tournament Preliminary Results available at Avogadro
Apr 6, 2009	Div C State Tournament Results Final 3:00 PM.
May 15-16, 2009	National Science Olympiad – Augusta State University
Summer 2009	National Coaches Clinics

CHECKLIST
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Form/Fee to UW–Stout
<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm Receiving of National SO <i>Coaches Manual and Rules</i> and <i>WSO SourceBook</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Closely read <i>WSO SourceBook</i> , National SO <i>Coaches Manual and Rules</i> , and access often WSO Web Site and NSO Web Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish/Confirm user account at WSO Avogadro Message Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Register for Science and Technology Experience in Western Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Download 2009 Event Schedule and Team Numbers – Dec, 2008
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete Required Forms for Regional and State Tournaments
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Registration Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Treatment Release Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity Waiver Form
<input type="checkbox"/> Register for Boyceville Invitational
<input type="checkbox"/> Enter State Team Events at Avogadro
<input type="checkbox"/> Enter State 15 competing student names at Avogadro
<input type="checkbox"/> Check ACT Test Dates for Possible Conflicts with State Tournament

# WSO DIV C FORMS/DOCUMENTATION

## Before WSO Tournaments

### 1. MEMBERSHIP IN WISCONSIN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

To participate in any SO competition a school must join Wisconsin Science Olympiad. This is the very first step in the membership process. A school joins by downloading the current Membership Form from the WSO web pages. This form will be filled out completely and mailed to the address shown on the form. A check in the full amount (\$300.00) must be included with this form. If a school chooses to have more than one team, each team must send in a separate form and a check. Please be advised that each team requires a separate coach.

### 2. TOURNAMENT PRE-REGISTRATION

All WSO member teams must **register** before any Invitational, Regional or State Tournaments. The name of the teacher/coach, and the **events** in which the school will compete must be provided to the Tournament Director. The deadline will be approximately **two weeks** before the Regional Competition. For the State Tournament; each team must register **one month** before the Tournament at the Avogadro website. This deadline is strictly applied. It is not necessary, however, to name the students who will compete in each event as these names can be changed and listed up to and including the day of the event. Events with insufficient pre-registration may be dropped from the tournament. Postings on the Message Board will show any deletions, as early as possible, so coaches may adjust accordingly. The time and location of each of the events at the Tournament is noted on the Schedule of Events.

## At WSO Tournaments

### 1. TOURNAMENT FINAL REGISTRATION FORM

On the day of the Wisconsin Science Olympiad State Tournament, coaches must submit at the Registration Desk, a Final Registration Form that identifies the 15 Team members. This list is used to verify names for final awards. The School's Principal and the Team's Head Coach must sign this list. Teams will not be permitted to compete without this form being on file with the WSO State Committee. This Final Registration Form may be printed from a link on the WSO web pages.

### 2. MEDICAL TREATMENT RELEASE FORM

Coaches will produce a Permission Slip/Medical Release Form for each member of the Team including alternates and assistants. These Forms will be submitted for inspection and check-off at Registration Desk at the Coaches Meeting before the tournament. Teams will not be permitted to compete without these forms being in possession of the Team Coach. It is also suggested that Medical Treatment Release forms be required of all adults involved with the school Science Olympiad Team. This Permission Slip/Medical Release Form may be printed from a link on the WSO web pages. Cards/forms issued by the school district are acceptable for this.

### 3. PUBLICITY WAIVER FORM

Coaches will submit a Publicity Waiver signed by the Principal of the School at the Team Registration /Coaches Meeting the morning of the Tournament. This waiver gives Wisconsin Science Olympiad, Inc., permission to take photos and videos of all attendees for publicity purposes for Wisconsin Science Olympiad. This Publicity Waiver form may be printed from a link on the WSO web pages.

# LIST OF WSO GENERAL POLICIES

## Before the Tournament

USING THE WISCONSIN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD LOGO  
COMBINING SMALL SCHOOLS  
HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS  
LIMIT ON TEAM MEMBERS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS  
TEAM STUDENT LIMIT  
EVENT PARTICIPATION LIMIT  
EVENT SUPERVISOR CONTACT WITH HIGH SCHOOL SO TEAMS  
SAFETY

**Details for the Policies  
are explained on  
pages 7-10 of the  
SourceBook**

## The Day of the Tournament

GENERAL EVENT RULES POLICY  
LIMITATIONS ON STATE OLYMPIAD FACILITIES AND COMPETITIONS  
LIMITING ENTRY INTO STATE OLYMPIAD EVENTS  
CHEATING  
VANDALISM  
CONSTRUCTED DEVICES  
WRIST BANDS REQUIRED  
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TEAMS AND WSO OFFICIALS  
DISQUALIFICATIONS  
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TEAMS AND STATE EVENT SUPERVISORS  
SCORING OF EVENTS  
TIEBREAKER FOR FINAL TEAM SCORES  
ROLE OF PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS

## After the Tournament

AWARDS  
INVITATION OF MULTIPLE TEAMS TO NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD  
FINALIZATION OF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

# WSO Div C Policies

## Before the Tournament

### USING THE WISCONSIN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD LOGO

The Wisconsin Science Olympiad Logo and the trademarked Science Olympiad name may not be used by anyone for any commercial purposes without the expressed written permission of the Wisconsin Science Olympiad organization. This means that no items (printed, video, or any other merchandise) may be sold with the Wisconsin Science Olympiad Logo or Science Olympiad name on it without prior written permission.

To protect the trademarks of Wisconsin Science Olympiad, Inc., and to promote a consistent visual identity, the WSO Logos and symbols and marks may vary in size, but cannot otherwise be altered, tampered with, modified, incorporated into other marks, or overprinted with other words or design elements. You may not modify or alter the WSO Logos in any way, except size, including proportions, colors, elements, type, font or in any other respect. You may not animate, morph or otherwise distort the WSO Logos' perspective or dimensional appearance.

The reigning High School Champion Team in Wisconsin may use the Wisconsin Science Olympiad Logo at the National Science Olympiad for that year only upon receiving written permission from WSO, Inc. That same current reigning WSO High School Team may continue to use the WSO logo for one (1) calendar year. This permission does extend into the next year's Wisconsin State Tournament where they are permitted to display the WSO logo but only for that day.

### COMBINING SMALL SCHOOLS

Smaller schools may combine students to form one Team if total enrollment of the combined schools would not be greater than 300 students. Rationale for this includes: 1) In Wisconsin there are many schools with small enrollments. Even though individual students may be outstanding, there is not the base available to form a Team with depth. This would enable the students to feel they have a chance of equal competition to achieve national recognition. 2) In a smaller school, where the teacher has the complete science program, it is more difficult to be involved with all the science enhancement activities such as Jr. Academy of Science, Science Fairs and Science Olympiad. By combining schools, a teacher could divide the responsibility and give the students greater flexibility. This would also allow communication between schools to encourage academic cooperation.

### HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Home-schooled students are encouraged to form Teams and participate in Science Olympiad. Several Home School

Teams represented their State at the National Tournaments! Due to differences in state laws/regulations, criteria governing home school participation in Science Olympiad are established by each state. Wisconsin Science Olympiad accepts Home Schooled Teams if they are recognized and registered as a Home School by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

### LIMIT ON TEAM MEMBERS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

The National Science Olympiad's written policies states that "the students must be from the membership school (recruiting from neighboring schools is not permitted) and that the principal must sign the Final Team Registration Form stating, "that all of the above students are active members of our school". Note that in all cases it says school, not school district.

### TEAM STUDENT LIMIT - STATE TOURNAMENT

Each Team may enter up to fifteen (15) students from the same school. Schools may field multiple Teams and are encouraged to do so. Each Team, however, must have a separate Head Coach and a separate paid membership to WSO. A school is considered to be a separate school if it has a separate administrator. For Division B, only five (5) ninth graders and for Division C, only seven (7) twelfth graders are allowed on the Team. Students must be from the membership school (recruiting from neighboring Schools is not permitted). Ninth grade students can compete at only one level.

### EVENT PARTICIPATION LIMIT FOR TEAM MEMBERS AT TOURNAMENT

For the individual State events, a Team may enter no more than one (1) student team (see each Event Rules for number of students permitted per team) in any one event. However, if Regional or Invitational Tournaments are small or don't host all events, Directors may choose to announce that more student Teams may participate in individual events. Aside from these limitations, Teams may enter as many or as few events as they wish. Teams are not required to provide the maximum number of participants listed unless the event specifically so states. They will, however, be at a disadvantage if they choose this option for any event.

An individual student may participate in no more events than there are sections for the competition. In other words, a four-section competition permits a student to enter a maximum of four events. A five-section competition permits a maximum of five events. Penalty for a student for entering more than the maximum is disqualification from all events.

### SAFETY

Safety is of utmost importance. Event Supervisors are obligated to prevent unsafe acts and devices. Safety decisions

are NOT subject to appeal. Participants may not bring or use flammable liquids or flame sources of any type, such as matches, lighters, alcohol, and acetone, nor bring or use acids/bases of any concentration except for lemon juice, vinegar and other mildly acidic/alkaline naturally occurring substances.

## The Day of the Tournament

### GENERAL EVENT RULES POLICY

Although the Official Rules will not change many of them are complex. Explanations and clarifications can be expected and announced up to and on the day of the Science Olympiad Tournaments. Please watch [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) for corrections and clarifications.

Teams may not interpret the rules so that they have an advantage over the rules or another Team. Unless otherwise stated, it is generally understood that, if notes, resources, calculators, etc., are not excluded or restricted, they are permitted unless they violate the spirit of the problem. Except, no direct or electronic communication is permitted with external resources (including people, places, etc.) during the competition. This effectively excludes the use of any computer, PDA, calculator, wireless devices, phones, etc. that have access to external communication or data retrieval during an event, unless specifically permitted.

If there is a dispute issue in a specific event, the student is to discuss the problem with the WSO State Committee person. If they cannot come to a resolution on the problem, the Head Coach should get involved but in the following manner: The Head Coach is NOT to go to the Event Supervisor. The Head Coach must go to the WSO State Committee person for that event with the intent to come to a solution.

### LIMITATIONS ON SCIENCE OLYMPIAD FACILITIES AND COMPETITIONS

At Wisconsin Science Olympiad events, the facilities provided by the host are "in the play" and considered to be equal to all Teams. If a school's team equipment is lost or damaged during competition, Wisconsin Science Olympiad or the host facilities holds no responsibility.

### LIMITING ENTRY INTO SCIENCE OLYMPIAD EVENTS

WSO Directors and/or Event Supervisors at the Wisconsin Science Olympiad maintain the option of excluding entry into the event to all but Team members. Several events, particularly the build events, are considered "spectator events," and are viewable by the public. Only those students actually competing in an event may enter areas where events are held. All other persons are to remain out of the building or the area at all times. If a student, coach,

teacher, chaperon or parent interfering with or disrupting the conduct of an event, the Team is subject to disqualification.

### CHEATING

An individual who cheats during the Competition will be penalized by disqualification of the Team from that event. If cheating occurs by a Team in more than one event, or in successive years, the Team may be disqualified that year, or the following year, from the entire Competition.

If an event Team, or Team member, or anyone associated with the Team, deliberately takes an action that impairs the ability of other Teams to fairly complete, that Team will be disqualified from the event. In addition, the event Team member(s) involved in the incident may be ineligible for any future Science Olympiad competitions.

### VANDALISM

If a Team member or members or persons associated with a Team commit(s) an act of vandalism, the Team will be disqualified from the competition. No member of that Team will be awarded a medal in any event. An individual who commits an act of vandalism may be barred from future competitions.

Each sponsoring school must pay the cost of repairing damage from any act of vandalism. A school must pay this restitution before it can register a team for the Science Olympiad in a subsequent year.

Vandalism means a deliberate action that results in damage to property. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti, damage to facility property and damage to the personal property of competitors, Event Supervisors, volunteers and spectators.

### CONSTRUCTED DEVICES

This policy applies to events that require a device to be constructed and brought to the Wisconsin Science Olympiad. The students involved with the design and construction of the device will receive no physical construction assistance from any parent, coach or other non-school member. Parent and coach assistance can consist only of technical verbal advice. In Wisconsin other students at the school are encouraged to help with the actual construction of the devices. Please be advised that at the NSO the lead student must be present and operate the device when it is operated for scoring. This does not apply in Wisconsin. Consult NSO policies for further information.

### WRISTBANDS REQUIRED

Head Coaches will be provided with 15 Wisconsin Science Olympiad Official wristbands at the Registration Desk at the Coaches' Meeting held before the Events begin. These wristbands are to be worn by the 15 competing Team members from that school during the course of the competition. The wristband must be properly attached to the wrist of the participant and must not be capable of being slipped off or

removed. A student not wearing an official WSO wristband properly attached and valid for that year will not be allowed to enter an event or participate in the competition. Replacement of damaged wristbands may be provided by contacting tournament Officials.

### **COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE BETWEEN WSO OFFICIALS AND TEAMS REGARDING CONCERNS, QUESTIONS, DISPUTES AND APPEALS**

Formal concerns, question, and disputes regarding Rules, Scoring and Clarifications may be asked by ONLY the Team's Head Coach. These concerns and questions must be presented directly to the WSO State Committee person for that event. A Head Coach must make an attempt to resolve the question with the WSO State Committee person. The Head Coach may choose to appeal an unresolved situation by submitting a written Appeal Form to the WSO Div C Arbitration Board in the scoring room. The Arbitration Board will make a decision. This Appeal procedure is not intended to stymie the expected conversations and communications between participants and WSO Officials.

The Appeal procedure becomes effective only when a dispute is unresolved. Frivolous appeals will be denied. Event Supervisor and WSO Officials judgment calls are not subject to review. Event Supervisors are extremely busy during competition. Do not interfere with an event while it is in progress.

The Arbitration Board will decide immediate consequences regarding DQs and Appeals which may include DQ from any event a student participated in, or preventing a Team from further participation. The Arbitration Board can also recommend long-term consequences to include barring an individual from future events, Teams being put on notice, and Teams being disqualified from future SO tournaments.

### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

The National Science Olympiad has two forms of disqualifications, one for behavior and one for failure to satisfy the requirements of the rules. Teams will be disqualified for misbehavior to include, but not limited to, vulgar language, cheating, vandalism, rudeness, and for exceeding maximum events limits, improper communications, disregard for safety, etc. Event Supervisors may remove from competition any student(s) whose personal or ethical behavior does not adhere to the Science Olympiad Code of Ethics. This action will disqualify the affected student(s) from participation and scoring in that event only.

### **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TEAMS AND STATE EVENT SUPERVISORS**

Direct communication about concerns and questions regarding Rules, Scoring and/or Clarifications between a Team and a State Event Supervisor is NOT permitted either before the Tournament or after the Tournament. Email, phone calls, letters, or other media messages are not permitted. Any concerns or questions will receive comments and answers upon posting them on the WSO Message

Board. The penalty for violation of this policy is disqualification of the Science Olympiad Team from the Tournament.

A State Event Supervisor may not, in any way, work with an individual high school Wisconsin Science Olympiad Team. A State Event Supervisor may work with Science Olympiad students and coaches at a workshop or clinic at a neutral site where many high schools are invited. Students and coaches are encouraged to communicate with the State Event Supervisors and other officials by using the WSO Message Board. Questions, with their answers, will be posted here to enable every team to benefit. State Event Supervisors may post additional information on their specific event's page, also.

### **SCORING OF EVENTS AT STATE TOURNAMENT**

Teams/devices that do not meet the requirements/specifications of the event rules will be allowed to compete, if possible, and are to be **scored and ranked** below those that met all of the requirements/specifications. They will be awarded event points in relation to their rank. Event Supervisors may, at their discretion, allow students to modify any device before it is impounded to bring it into compliance with the rules. That discretion, if extended, must be made available to all competitors equally. Any modification must be completed, and the device impounded, **before** the expiration of the impound period. State Event Supervisors and Officials may **not** provide assistance regarding the type of modifications or how to accomplish them prior to, or at any time during the tournament day.

Teams making an honest attempt to participate that **cannot** be assigned a raw score because of time, mechanical failure, wrong dimensions, etc., will be listed as a "**P**" for **Participation** for the raw score on the score card and will be awarded N points. "N" is equal to the number of teams **registered** to Compete in the **Tournament** (we plan for **50** teams at State) as shown on the score card. Any device, which, in the judgment of the Event Supervisor, is a **safety hazard** to competitors, officials, or spectators, will not be allowed to compete and will be listed as a P (**Participation**) for the raw score on the score card and will be awarded N points. Teams that do not follow the rules regarding resources or specifications of devices, etc., will be allowed to participate (contingent upon the safety hazard) but will be **ranked below others**.

If a Team does not show up or does not make an honest attempt to participate or does not have a wristband, the Team will be listed as a **No Show** or "**NS**" for the raw score on the score card and awarded N+1 points. This includes Teams who may be present but display no preparation for the competition. **Disqualified** or "**DQed**" Teams will receive N+2 points on the score card.

Teams who were scored and had a raw score placed on the score card, are to be awarded points for each place as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> – 1 point, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2 points, - up to 50<sup>th</sup> – 50 points

Teams considered as PARTICIPATION, NO SHOW, OR DISQUALIFIED will be ranked and assigned points as follows:

<b>PARTICIPATION (P)</b>	= N points	= <b>50 points</b>
<b>NO SHOW (NS)</b>	= N + 1 points	= <b>51 points</b>
<b>DISQUALIFIED (DQ)</b>	= N + 2 points	= <b>52 points</b>

(Note: N = number of teams **registered** to compete for the tournament not the number of teams that actually enter the event. We expect 50 teams to be registered for the State Tournament, so N=50)

The total of the Team points earned in all scoring Events will determine the **RANK** among all Teams. The lowest numerical total is best.

### **TIE BREAKER FOR FINAL TEAM SCORES**

In the event of a tie in the cumulative final scores for two or more Teams at the Science Olympiad Tournaments, the "tiebreaker" will be determined by which one Team earned the most Gold Medals. Additional ties will be determined by the most Silver Medals and then Bronze Medals and then 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes, etc, until the point where the tie has been broken.

### **ROLE OF PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS**

One of the most important goals of Science Olympiad is that students must be part of team to engage in science and science learning. While it is encouraged that parents and adults help students with their projects and preparation of their events, it is important to stress that parents do not do it all! They should merely be a guide on the side. **During the competition, as much as parents and adults would like to do, it is important that coaches and parents not get involved in specific events.** They are to remain away from all events, out of all rooms, and not interact with any official. To do so could endanger the entire team for disqualification.

## **After the Tournament**

### **AWARDS**

Athletic-style medals will be presented to participating individual winners for each event at the Awards Program. In addition, Championship trophies will be awarded to the top three Division C Teams at the State Tournament. The winning Team will be invited to attend the National Science Olympiad Tournament. The Award's Program is a very exciting and rewarding experience for the participants, their coaches and their families. It is expected that the Teams will attend the Award's Program and that the winners will come to the stage to be presented with their medals/trophies. In the case where winners were not present to receive the awards, a coach must contact the State Director to make arrangements.

### **INVITATION OF MULTIPLE TEAMS TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

When more than one Team from Wisconsin Division C is invited from the State Science Olympiad to the National Science Olympiad, the second place Team in the overall

score for that year's WSO will be invited to represent Wisconsin with the first place Team. If either team chooses not to attend the NSO, the third place Team will be invited, etc. National Science Olympiad policy is that only one Team per school is permitted to represent their State at the National Science Olympiad Finals. This, therefore, is the Wisconsin Science Olympiad policy, also.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE FINALIZATION OF WISCONSIN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD DIVISION C STATE TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

At the Wisconsin Science Olympiad Division C State Tournament, no scores will be posted or announced until the Awards Program. (Exceptions to not posting scores during the competition may and will occur for some events, particularly the build events). All scores are subject to a triple score check process to help insure accuracy. At the end of the WSO Awards Program, each Team's Head Coach is encouraged to access the WSO Avogadro web site to view the Competition Results. Preliminary Non-Official scores will be posted here as soon as possible.

Any scoring inconsistencies or disputes must be brought to the attention of the Wisconsin Science Olympiad Division C Directors by only the Team's Head Coach. This must be within 48 hours of the completion of the Saturday State Tournament. Head Coaches disputing their Team scores or placement will have until 3 p.m. on the following Monday to contact the Directors. At 3:00 p.m. Monday, all awards and placements will be considered to be absolutely final. Official Scores for the Wisconsin Science Olympiad tournament will be then posted on the results page of Avogadro ASAP.

Actual event papers, test booklets, score cards, answer sheets, individual questions, and other event documents are not available for discussion or examination before, during or after the State Tournament.

### **INFORMATION SOURCES**

The Wisconsin Science Olympiad web site and/or the National Science Olympiad Rules Clarification Pages will be the official source of information, including last-minute updates and postings, for the Wisconsin State Olympiad events. Coaches and Teams are to visit these web sites for updates and rules clarifications, including immediately prior to the Wisconsin State Science Olympiad Tournaments

The National Science Olympiad web pages contain near unlimited amounts of information. They have listed web sites of Interest to Educators as General Resources, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Physical Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences with dozens of internet links. Open the NSO Homepage and click on Resources in the left menu. Additionally, clicking on the Events Info in that same menu will provide hundreds of links to resources. Further clicking on Event Descriptions will provide hundreds, if not thousands, of links to detailed information, training, study resources, sample tests, National lists and guides, and FAQs, about each event.



## General Rules & Code of Ethics

Teams are expected to compete in tournament events with an 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, supervisors, parents,

and guests are expected to display courtesy and respect toward Science Olympiad officials, other teams, and guests of the Science Olympiad. Failure to show good sportsmanship, honesty and/or courtesy by a participant, coach, parent or guest of the team may result in disqualification of the team from the event, the entire tournament or future tournaments.

### WISCONSIN Div C STATE SCHEDULE

Nov 21, 2008  
Membership  
Forms and Fees  
Due

MAR 4, 2009  
Avogadro  
Registration  
Deadline

APRIL 4, 2009  
Wisconsin State  
Tournament at  
UW–Stout

MAY 14, 2009  
National SO  
Finals at Augusta  
State University



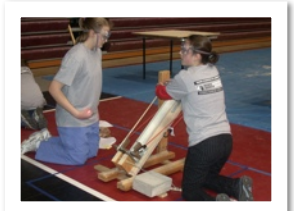
### INTERPRETING THE RULES?

Teams may not interpret the rules so that they have an unfair advantage over the rules or over other teams.



### Notes/Resources?

Unless otherwise stated, it is generally understood that if notes, resources, calculators, actions, etc., are not excluded, then they are permitted unless they violate the spirit of the competition.



### NO EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Once teams have entered the event area to compete, they may not leave until they are finished, nor return if they have left, nor communicate with outside resources, including people, places, etc. by any means. This effectively excludes the use of any computer, PDA, calculator, wireless devices, phones, etc., or any device that has access to external communication or data retrieval during an event unless specifically permitted.

### SAFETY

Safety is of utmost importance. Event Supervisors are obligated to prevent unsafe acts and devices. Participants may not bring or use flammable liquids or acids/bases of any concentration above natural substances.

# Regional Tournament Information

## Regionals Mandatory for Wisconsin Division C

### QUALIFYING FOR THE DIVISION C WISCONSIN STATE TOURNAMENT

For a Team to qualify for the 2009 Wisconsin Science Olympiad State High School (Div C) Tournament, they must satisfy these three (3) criteria:

**Criterion 1: The Team must first participate at the WSO Regional Tournament in their assigned region. Participating means the Team must enter a minimum of 10 events at that assigned Regional Tournament.**

A Team can choose to do any number of events at the Regionals, even all 28 if they are offered, but the absolute minimum is set at 10 events to meet this qualification for the State Tournament. Regionals give the opportunity to have many students involved in many events.

**Criterion 2: Each Team must provide at least one (1) Regional Event Supervisor, and the necessary materials, equipment, exams, and personnel, for at least one (1) event at the Regional Tournament.**

Teams are strongly encouraged to provide more than one Event. Contact the Regional Director for recommendations.

**Criterion 3: The Team must place in the top 50 medal count for all Regional Tournaments to be eligible to compete at the Div C State Tournament. This criterion will be applied to establish the 50 team maximum roster at State, only if necessary.**

Physical constrictions, such as time parameters, event length, available equipment and classroom space, permit a maximum of just 50 teams to compete at the High School State Tournament. In the situation where WSO Div C memberships exceeds 50 teams, Criterion 3 will take effect.

The Regional attended by a Team in their geographic region is the Regional that will be used to determine State eligibility. Teams may attend more than one Regional and are encouraged to do so.

Registration of Events Deadline for those 50 Teams qualifying for the Div C State Tournament is one month before the date of the State Tournament.

### AT-LARGE QUALIFICATION FOR STATE

New for 2009: An event team that earns a Gold Medal in an event at their assigned Regional Tournament will qualify for an At-Large invitation to participate in that one event at the State Tournament even if their School Team did not qualify for the State Tournament.

### REGIONAL TEAM ROSTER

A Coach may use as many students as they choose to be on the Regional Team and will not be limited to the 15 maximum as required for State and National Tournaments. This, obviously, gives the coaches and all the students a chance to see who is best prepared and who is best suited for each event. Coaches also are encouraged to establish multiple Teams from a school.

An individual student is permitted to enter as many as 5 events. The students that participate at Regional Competition need not be the same students that compete at State or Nationals. The participants who will compete in each event can be changed up to the day of the Tournament.

It will be at the discretion of the Regional Directors as to whether a School can have more than one Team per event. This is desirable so more students may be involved. However, available space and other restrictions will guide their decision.

It will be at the discretion of the Regional Directors and State Directors as to whether a Team can compete in more than one Regional. Certainly, available space will help their decision here, too. We ask you to contact your Regional Director and the State Director of Events for further info.

The Teams can have as many students, coaches and parents involved as they like. But, the parents and coaches can only coach. Adults doing the actual physical work involved (building a device, rocket, robot, bridge, etc.) is strictly forbidden.

Eligible Teams will be posted on the Team Numbers web page if they qualify to advance to the State Tournament. Avogadro, the WSO Scoring and Registration system, will permit only those 50 qualifying Teams to Register for State Tournament events.

## REGISTRATION FOR REGIONALS

All Teams must register with the appropriate Regional Director their chosen events two weeks before the Regional Competition. You must attend the Regional Tournament in your assigned Region. If you choose to attend a second, or third Regional, you must register. If you are unable to attend your assigned Regional, you may petition the WSO Director of Events for a possible change of Regionals.

Teams will be assigned to a Regional based on geography and to balance the load between the five Regionals. Therefore, reassigning Teams will be very unlikely.

Any other information and specific instructions unique to that Regional and its operation, including the Schedule of Events, will be provided by that Regional Director.

Please assist the Regional Director in any way you can. They have a daunting task in promoting science education in Wisconsin via the Science Olympiad Regional Competition.

## THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT EVENT EXPERIENCE

The Regional Tournament is intended to provide students and coaches an opportunity to improve their skills, gain experience and compare their efforts to those of the other Science Olympiad schools. The objective of a Regional Science Olympiad Tournament is to provide fair and representative challenges based on the current rules and parameters for the events. The outcome of the Regional Tournament is that a certain number of the teams are invited to the State Tournament. Every event counts equally in the overall team score.

It is expected that everyone will share in the learning experience and seek to improve the competition at the Wisconsin Science Olympiad State Tournament and the National Tournament Finals.

Teams will not be ranked to determine a Regional Champion. No Regional Team places will be tallied, only individual rankings will be collected.

At the Regional Awards Program, individual awards will be presented to the top finishers in each Event. The number and style of awards will be determined by

each Regional Director. This is the third criterion for qualifying for the State Tournament. The Teams that have won more Medals at Regionals will receive consideration over the Teams that have won fewer Medals. Ties will be broken using the tournament method of breaking ties. This criterion will be applied to establish the 50 team maximum roster at State only if necessary.

## Duties and Responsibilities of the Regional Event Supervisors

The REGIONAL EVENT SUPERVISOR will prepare/construct their Event in accordance with the current National Science Olympiad Rules and the Wisconsin Science Olympiad Rules. These are absolutely the only Rules applying to each event. The Event Supervisor must not deviate in any fashion from these Rules. Every word in each Rule is critical.

Several general statements regarding the construction and design of an event are:

- Don't make the Event too long...its okay if they finish before the time period ends. This is a common mistake with first time Event Supervisors. MAKE IT SHORTER than you think you should.
- It is definitely required that your Event be easily and quickly scored. A huge operational problem occurs when the Event Supervisor takes SO LONG to turn in their scores to the Official Scorers. This delays the Awards Program and puts added stress on the already tired students and coaches.
- You are encouraged to prepare a test that contains easy questions and hard questions. Keep in mind that the spectrum of abilities and backgrounds of the students from the many schools can be very broad.
- There can be NO TIES. Consult the Official Rules for methods/means to break ties. If no means are given in those Rules, you must provide a means to break ties. It is at your discretion whether or not this method is explained to the students before the exam if the official Rules don't so state.
- The Regional Director will act to settle any potential disputes or disagreements.
- Your Regional Director will provide you with a Score Card for your Event. You as the Regional Event Su-

pervisor must provide Raw Scores for each participating Team and rank those Teams to determine the place of finish for all Teams in your Event. This information should also be in your feedback plan for the students.

- Please examine the Scoring System shown on a previous page. To add to that, if a Team is DQ'd, put **DQ** as raw score and award N+2 points on the score sheet. Also, note on the score card the reason why teams were disqualified. Event Supervisors may remove from competition any student(s) whose personal or ethical behavior does not adhere to the Science Olympiad Code of Ethics. This action will disqualify the affected student(s) from participation and scoring in that event only. If any Team is **DQed or Ranked Below Others**, inform the **students (and remind the students to inform their coach) as soon as a problem occurs. Notify the head coach** if it occurs after students have left. Be sure to list the reason on the score card to inform the Director.
- Your Regional Director will provide you with a Schedule for the Tournament. Please note that those events scheduled from 9:30-10:30, for example, begin promptly at 9:30 and end at, or before 10:30. Students must get to the proper location (room, arena or field) and be on time to compete in that event.
- You, as Regional Event Supervisor, are strongly encouraged to provide feedback and coaching advice to the Teams at the conclusion of the Regional event.
- It is the discretion of each Regional Event Supervisor and the Regional Directors that the students or coaches are permitted to retain any exam material or test booklets from the event at the conclusion of Regional Tournament.
- Each event will have a Regional Event Supervisor and as many Assistants as is necessary. The ASSISTANTS will help the Regional Event Supervisor set up the competition, manage the Teams, reload the stations for the next section, proctor the test, score the outcome, and return the room to its previous condition.
- Whatever you do and whatever happens, it is imperative that all Teams receive the same testing conditions as fairly as possible.

#### HELPFUL INFORMATION for EVENT SUPERVISORS at REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- Be sure you have the Official Rules for the current

year. The rules do change slightly from year to year. You must follow the Official Rules; you may not make up rules. If you have run the same event previously, DO NOT assume you can do the same things again.

- You may be running the same event for both Division B (Middle School) and Division C (High School) if the event is offered in both divisions. About 50% of the events are offered in both divisions, ex. Dynamic Planet, Astronomy, Rocks and Minerals, Wright Stuff, etc.
- If you are doing both the middle school and high school levels for the same event at a tournament, consider using the same event for both levels with minor changes in a few questions to make the event more appropriate. Do not be surprised if you use the exact same event and middle school students do better than high school students.
- You will receive an "Event Roster" from the Regional Tournament Directors that serves as a roll to check to see who is present, and a score card that you will turn in with the rankings and raw scores entered on it.
- After running your event, be sure to score it as quickly as possible and bring the tests or data used in scoring and your Event Roster to the Scoring Room. Please ask your assistants to help "proof" the results.

Enjoy your experience!

*The term Judge does not apply to a Science Olympiad Event. No exams, no devices, no performances are judged. They are scored using an established rubric following the published Official Rules of the National Science Olympiad.*

*More than 90% of the problems we've experienced in the past have been due to students, coaches, and assistants NOT reading and applying the current Official Rules to the letter.*

*The students are expected to act with courtesy and respect to everyone at all times. The Rules of Competition do provide for a student team, or an entire school, to be disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct.*