



## Official NorCal Tournament Rules

### NorCal Science Olympiad Regional & State Tournament Rules

**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 coach and a separate paid membership." The three top scoring teams from **different schools** in each division (B & C) at a Regional event advance to the State Finals. Only **one team per school** advances to the state event.

**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 alternates to the Regional Director prior to the start of the regional event. 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade (DIV B) & seven 12<sup>th</sup> grade (DIV C) students on a team is permitted.

Regular team members can compete on one team only and cannot be listed as an alternate. Only team members from the winning team participating at the regional level event can participate in the NorCal State Finals. Team members from a second team at the winning school site cannot participate in the state event. If a regular team member is unable to attend the state finals, then an alternate listed on the winning team's list can replace that 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 alternates to have participated in the regional event.

In an effort 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 three spots thereby avoiding displacing local teams. Regions also have the opportunity to 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.

Each region sends the three top scoring teams in each division (B & C) for a total of six teams advancing to the state event. If an "invited" team from a school outside the region participates in the regional event and that team scores in the top three, then the Regional Director has the option of sending the fourth place team in that division so that an invited team does not displace a local team. Should a region send less than six teams to the state event the State Director will decide how to fill the opening.

**Device Impound: State Rule** - Only regular team members and registered Alternates may impound a device. The team member(s) does NOT need to be the student participating in the individual event.

**Pre-register Events: State Rule, recommended for Regional:** TBD by host site.

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

Regional Director.

**Scoring Procedures: State Rule, recommended for Regional:** The highest scoring team in each division at the NorCal State Finals advances to the National Science Olympiad. The scoring formula is as follows: 1st place = 11 points, 2nd place = 10 points, etc. 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 if still tied) 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 eleven points and are given gold medals. The next highest scoring team is in third place with a bronze medal and nine points. There would be no second place team in that event. It is highly recommended that the scoring procedures mentioned above are adopted at the regional level.

Awards at the state event will remain as follows: gold, silver, and bronze medals for first, second, and third place. Ribbons or medals are awarded for fourth and fifth place.

**Posting Scores: State Rule** - No scores or best times will be posted at the NorCal State Finals.

**Final Score Appeal Process: Regional and State Rule** - The final team scores will be available to each team coach **at the scoring room** upon completion of the awards ceremony. Team coaches will be given twenty minutes after receipt of scores to appeal their team scores. Event Supervisor judgment calls are not subject to review.

**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 must **complete and sign** the form and submit it to an arbitration board member or deliver it to the scoring room. 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 event.

**Disqualifications (DQ's): State Rule** - See National rules for DQ's. Where National rules do not indicate what to do if a team is DQ'd the rule will be that the team receives no points. The team can participate in the event if the Event Supervisor and/or an arbitrator deems it safe to do so, but will not receive points. If an event is DQ'd it is up to the arbitration team to decide if awards are given for the event. Team points will not be given for a DQ'd event.

**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: State Rule** - See official team list and device statement form.

**Team fees for NorCal State Finals:** 2010 team fees are \$200.

**NorCal State Finals Future Regional Hosts:**

2010 – 2011 Fresno  
2012 - 2013 Tulare  
2014 - 2015 Sacramento  
2016 - 2017 Bay Area  
2018 - 2019 Stanislaus  
2020 – 2021 San Joaquin