



Official NorCal State Tournament Rules Updated October 5, 2012

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 four** 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.

Code of Conduct Violations or Disqualifications: Regional and State Rule – (Note: Code of Conduct information is available on the NorCal website.) 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 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 9th grade (DIV B) & seven 12th 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.

Each region sends the **four** top scoring teams in each division (B & C) for a total of **eight** teams advancing to the state finals 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 **four** 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.

Device Impound: State Rule - Only regular team members and registered Alternates may impound a device. The team member(s) impounding a device 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 **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 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.

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 **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 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: 2012 team fees are \$200 and payable to the host site.

NorCal State Finals Future Regional Hosts:

2012 - 2013 Tulare (subject to change if UC Davis hosts the State Finals)

2014 - 2015 Sacramento

2016 - 2017 Bay Area

2018 - 2019 Stanislaus

2020 – 2021 San Joaquin

2022 – 2023 Fresno