

WSO Policies

New board members and team coaches will be sent a copy of the Bylaws of Washington Science Olympiad and WSO Policies. Board members are encouraged to keep the bylaws, policies, Board guidelines, meeting minutes, and agendas in a notebook. When retiring from the board, the notebook should be passed on to the person taking their place.

Board Guidelines: Protocol for board members communicating with coaches, students, parents, and other interested parties:

1. Be professional.
2. Be a team person.
3. Commitments need prior approval of the Board.
4. Questions regarding policy are to be referred to the State Director.
5. Policy changes must be made by a quorum of the Board.
6. Board members should support WSO policy and other board members.

Regional Boards

Each region in the state should have a regional board to plan and run the regional tournament. It is recommended that the board consist of at least 4 people:

- 1 state board member
- 1 businessperson
- 2 or more coaches or interested parties

Registration

All teams must register by January 31st each year. There will be no refunds after January 31st. Registration is \$210 for returning teams, and \$150 for teams from schools that haven't had a team in the previous 5 years. If a new school has more than one team, each additional team will pay full price. Each team must submit a purchase order or full payment when registering to receive a current season rules manual.

Tournament Schedule

By the end of August each year, the Board of Directors will create a unified schedule of events to be followed by each regional and state tournament in Washington. Coaches will be given at least two (2) weeks to comment/suggest changes. The Board will finalize the schedule at the Fall meeting.

Tournaments

One school may advance only two (2) teams to the state tournament. Only one team from a school may advance to the national tournament (if more than one team is allowed to advance to nationals).

Tournament tests will not be given back to students or coaches. Blank tests may be distributed at the event supervisor's discretion and/or representative tests may be posted on the web site.

Teams may participate in any regional tournament. Preference is given in order of application.

Closed events will have a sign posted stating whether the event is open for observation or picture taking.

No electronic devices will be allowed into any event unless specifically stated by the rules. This particularly refers to cell phones and cameras – students are not to bring them into an event.

Scoring

Low score wins. (First place in each event = 1 point. Second place = 2 pts ... last place would be the number of teams attending (N).) All event scores (excluding trial events) will be added together for the team's overall score. Lowest scoring team is first place.

If a team doesn't enter an event, they earn points for the total number of teams plus one (N+1). (Example: 12 teams competing. If a team doesn't compete in an event, their score for that event is 13 [12+1].)

If a team is disqualified from an event, they earn points for the total number of teams plus two (N+2). (Example: 12 teams competing. A disqualified team would score 14 for that event [12+2].)

If competitor/s in an event is/are disqualified for cheating, unsportsmanlike conduct, or ethics violations, they will earn points for the total number of teams plus five (N+5). (Example: 12 teams competing. A competitor in an event is disqualified because of cheating, the event score would be 17 [12+5]).

Event supervisors must have a method for breaking ties in their event. No ties are allowed.

If teams are tied for tournament placing (overall team points), the Score Room will use the number of gold medals won by each team to break the tie. If this does not resolve the tie, silver medals should be counted. And so forth to 4 places for Regionals and 5 places for State.

If two teams are still tied, one event, which was previously chosen, will determine the winner. Whichever school won the event, will beat the other school in team standing.

Each team's coach will be provided with a hard copy of preliminary tournament results at the conclusion of the regional and state tournaments. Coaches will be provided opportunity to challenge results by contacting the tournament director by 5:00 p.m. of the Monday following the tournament. Pending outcome of any challenges, results are official at 5:00 p.m. Monday following the tournament. Final results will be posted on the WSO web site by 5:00 p.m. Thursday following the tournament.

Awards

Regionals – Top 3 places medals and trophies

State – Top 4 places medals for events, top 3 places trophies

New Team Recognition – The top scoring new team in each division will be recognized at each regional tournament by a certificate and credit applied toward the following season's registration.

Determining the number of teams that will advance from regionals to state competition:

Number of teams in division allowed into state tournament [divided by] Number of teams in division registered in the state [times] Number of teams registered at the regional tournament = Number of teams advancing to state tournament from the regional tournament.

Example: If there are 20 B teams maximum allowed in the state tournament, 79 B teams registered in the state and 18 B teams registered at the regional tournament, 5 B teams from that regional tournament will advance to the state tournament. [Formula: $(20/79) \times 18 = 4.56$ or 5 teams]

Newsletter

The State Director will prepare two newsletters each year. The fall newsletter will contain registration information. The spring newsletter will contain tournament results. Newsletters will be posted on the WSO web site. Member coaches will be sent electronic copies and/or notified when new issues of the newsletter are available on the web site.

Articles from coaches or other individuals may be sent to the State Director for consideration.

Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting is an informational meeting at which time the previous competition season is discussed, dates are identified for the upcoming season (coaching clinics, invitational tournaments, tournaments, and other events of interest), the unified schedule is drafted, members are provided opportunity for feedback, and new board members are elected. The date and place will be posted on the web site and in the spring newsletter.

Associate Membership

At this time the associate membership registration fee is equal to a team registration fee, which is \$210.

Home School Policy

For Science Olympiad competitions in Washington State, home school students are defined as students who meet the following criteria:

- Students who file a declaration of intent with their school district
- Students taking no more than two courses at a public or private school

At the time of tournament team registration, a home school team must submit in writing a list of team members and any courses taken at other educational institutions.

Science Olympiad is a team activity, not an individual one, so a child must be a member of only one team. A team consists of up to 15 children. At this time participation is only extended for Division B (grades 6-9) and Division C (grades 9-12).

Since there is no official method to determine what grade a home-school child is in, we have established that a child's equivalent grade will be determined by their birth date. Hence, a child who will be eleven years old on September 1, will be considered to be a sixth grader and so forth and so

on. This calendar age will be used to determine eligibility for Division B or Division C. A child may compete with a higher division team than their age indicates, but not a lower one. For example, a tenth grader can only compete in Division C while a fifth grader could compete in Division B (or even C).

A home-school student may compete on a public school team if that home-schooled student is within the geographical boundaries for that school, and isn't also a member of a home-school team.

Public School Policy

WSO will follow the national policy for public schools.

NOTE: The Home School and Public School policies are in the process of being replaced by a Team Affiliation Policy. The draft of this policy was sent to registered teams October 2009 for review/comment prior to February 2010. Pending revision based on feedback, the Board of Directors will adopt the new policy at the Spring 2010 Board meeting.