

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/s. 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. Schools may register more than two teams after January 1st at a discounted rate of \$150 (on a space available basis). [Schools may register more than two teams prior to January 1st at the full rate of \$210 on a first-come, first-served basis.]

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. Tournament Directors may only change the schedule by expanding opportunities for students to compete and with the approval of the State Director.

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 released at the event supervisor's discretion. In that case, the event supervisor will provide an electronic version to the Tournament Director who will forward to the State Director for posting 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's performance in an event is impossible to score (e.g., all or most test questions left blank), the team will receive Participation points (N). Example: 12 teams competing. If a team submits a blank test, their score for that event is 12 [N=total # of teams competing]).

If a team doesn't enter an event, they earn No Show points of 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 receive Disqualification points of 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 receive Ethical Disqualification points of 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 (with the exception of Participation, No Show, Disqualification, and Ethical Disqualification ranking).

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 4th place ribbons, top 1-3 places medals and trophies.

State – Top 5th place ribbons, top 1-4 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.

Team Affiliation Policy (replaces former Home School Policy)

A Team Endeavor

Washington Science Olympiad (WSO) requires all participants in Science Olympiad competitions to participate as members of a team, not as unaffiliated individuals. There are three identified affiliations: Public School, Private/Charter School, and Home School. Teams are comprised of from 1 to 15 students. Students may compete in a higher division than their grade level, but may not compete in a lower division than their grade level, with the exception identified by national Science Olympiad that 9th grade high school students may compete on the team from the middle school that they most recently attended. Once a declaration of school affiliation has been made for participation in a regional tournament, students must remain on a team associated with that school for the remainder of the competition season. The only exception for changing schools mid-season is if the student's family moves to another school's/county's geographical boundaries.

Public School Students

Public school students may participate in Science Olympiad only as members of a team that is formed in the local public school that they attend. Public school students may not opt to participate on another school's team, with two exceptions (1) Elementary school students may compete for the middle/junior high school they will attend; and (2) 9th grade high school students may compete for the middle school they formerly attended. Small schools should see the Science Olympiad National Policy on Small Schools for other options.

Private or Charter School Students

Private schools, “governor” schools, and charter schools may create Science Olympiad teams from any students in their student body, regardless of where their homes of origin are located. They may not solicit nor enlist either public school or home-schooled students on their teams.

Home-Schooled Students

Definitions/Policies for Washington Science Olympiad:

- Home-schooled students are defined by their filing a signed declaration of intent to home school with the superintendent of the school district in which the student resides (RCW 28A.200.010).
- Home-schooled students may be enrolled PART-TIME in a public school (RCW 28A150.350) or a private/charter school, as long as they are not reported as a full-time student by the school.
- Calendar age will be used to determine grade eligibility for Division B (grades 6-9) and Division C (grades 9-12). A student’s equivalent grade will be determined by birth date as of September 1. Hence, a child who will be eleven years old on September 1 will be considered a 6th grader; a twelve year old is a 7th grader, and so forth).

Option 1 - Participation through a Local Public School: Home-schooled students may compete on a public school team provided that the student lives within the geographical boundaries for that school and is NOT also a member of a home school team.

Option 2 - Participation through a Home School Team: A home school team will consist only of home-schooled students who live within the boundaries of two contiguous (side-by-side) geographic counties within Washington.

Registering and Qualifying Teams

WSO is responsible for registering and qualifying all Science Olympiad teams in the state of Washington. For a public or private/charter school Science Olympiad team, a roster signed by the principal of the school is considered proper validation of enrollment. For a home school team, a roster signed by the president of the home school association or the head of the independent home school is considered proper validation.

Investigation of Team Qualifications

If WSO suspects that a team is comprised of students who are not members of that school’s student body or a home school team does not conform to WSO definitions, the State Director may ask the coach to provide verification of that team’s qualifications as follows:

- A public, private or charter school student’s qualification may be verified by some form of school identification, school roster, recent report card, evidence of residence in the school district or other similar documents appropriate to the situation.
- A home-schooled student’s qualification may be verified by the student’s annual notice of intent to home school and some proof of residency within the designated two contiguous counties.

The WSO State Director, tournament officials, or other WSO personnel will NOT contact individual students to determine school team validity. Team qualification complaints must be filed with the Tournament Director before 5PM Monday following the tournament, All inquiries will be forwarded to the WSO State Director to reconcile with the registered team coach, school principal, president of the home school association, or the head of the independent home school by 5PM Thursday following the tournament.

Sanctions for Non-Qualified Participation

If, after investigation, the WSO State Director determines that a team or its members are not qualified, sanctions may be imposed that could include disqualification of a student team member, disqualification

Effective 9/25/10

of a team coach, or disqualification of the team from a tournament. In the event of multiple cases of disqualification, the coach or team or school may be barred from future competition.