WSO TEAM PROBATION POLICY:

For Schools Identified from WSO/Regional Board as being on Probationary Status

See WSO Team Conduct Policy for infractions that will put schools at risk for probation.

Purpose:

The goal of probation is to help schools develop appropriate and sporting behavior from competitors, coaches, and parents or other guests of the school to allow continued participation in Science Olympiad. There are no differences in consequences for misbehavior by any one of individuals/groups associated with a team (with exception of divisional separation between B & C divisions from the same school – each will be considered separately).

Appropriate behavior from everyone at a tournament includes:

- 1. Respecting tournament staff, event supervisors, and other volunteers, *especially* when bringing up a possible issue.
- 2. Respecting other competitors and their belongings.
- 3. Knowing and following event rules and required safety equipment and procedures.
- 4. School spectators (anyone associated with a school) should not talk to nor signal to their competitors and for open events, must remain in designated areas.

WSO realizes that coaching staff and student participation among teams competing for the same school (program) are flexible. Therefore, sanctions/warning/probation resulting from one team need to be applied to the entire program (school), and cannot be avoided by changing head coach, removing students or parents. It is beyond WSO or individual tournaments' means to enforce sanctions against individuals/teams; again resulting in sanctions/probation against the school (program).

Divisions are always treated separately; meaning that if a school has both B & C division teams, if a B division team has infractions resulting in probationary status, the Division C team/s will not be sanctioned.

Definitions:

DQ = Disqualification (based on a team not abiding by event rules).

EDQ = Ethical Disqualification – this is a WSO-specific DQ that results from schools/teams violating WSO Team Conduct Policy which – minimally – adds 5 penalty points onto the team's event score. Considering the WSO Team Probation Policy, DQ & EDQ scores will impact school (program) probationary status.

"Program" – as used in this policy – refers to the school program. So that "School" and "Program" may be used interchangeably, referring to all teams competing for that school/division.

"Sanctions" refers to restrictions on a school resulting from warning/probationary status.

"Unranking" means that probationary teams that have DQs/EDQs in a tournament (particularly a regional or state tournament) will be subject to lower ranking (e.g., ranked after all other competing teams) for that tournament.

Summary for Schools with DQ/EDQ Infractions (Annual Warning and Probationary Status)

1. Annual Warning (AW): Schools that receive a single EDQ or more than one DQ at a tournament are put on Annual Warning with WSO which is official notification that future adverse behavior will have consequences.

- Annual Warnings last for one year. Schools that have no DQ/EDQs in the year following Annual Warning are officially off AW status and resume full membership entitlements in the subsequent competition year.
- 2. Schools on AW that receive one EDQ in that same competition year automatically go on **probation** and will be unranked at that tournament.
- 3. Schools on AW with any DQ/EDQ behaviors in the following competition year will be put on **probation**, where they are restricted to two teams for two years.
- 4. While on **probation**, any EDQ during those two years will have the immediate consequence of extending probation for an additional year. Depending on the severity &/or number of EDQs during probation upon approval by the WSO board will have the consequence of disqualifying the school from WSO tournaments for at least 5 years. Any DQ during probation will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the WSO board for consequence.

NOTE: NOT registering in the year following AW or Probationary status does not eliminate sanctions – they will carry forward in entirety to the next year that the school registers.

Probationary Status/Restrictions/Sanctions

- 1. Sanctions (probationary restrictions) are between the school and the WSO board which may first be initiated by the regional board. Tournament Directors are NOT able to comment on nor correspond with coaches regarding probationary status.
 - a. Tournament directors (including invitationals) will be made aware of WSO teams on AW or probation prior to tournament day. If final tournament scoring identifies an AW or Probation team has a DQ or EDQ, the tournament/regional or WSO board will apply appropriate sanctions as laid out in this policy. At this point, no sanctions will be placed on the entire school. However, as stated above going into the following registration/tournament year, WSO has no way of limiting restrictions to individuals associated with a team and, therefore, the school will incur restrictions placing the program on AW or probation.
 - b. Since tournament directors often do not have complete information with initial scoring to unrank teams nor provide current probationary status, AW/Probationary schools may need to connect with the WSO State Director following the tournament for confirmation of post-tournament status. As with WSO policy for tournament scoring, official results need to be finalized by 5PM Thursday following the tournament and posted to the WSO web site by Friday following the tournament. For any AW/Probation team, the State Director will provide team/school status prior to WSO release of official results to identify how the team or school may be impacted.
 - c. The State Director will track all behavior issues and DQ/EDQs and make relevant information available to tournament directors. This includes tracking which teams (and possibly schools) were unranked and may not compete in future tournaments during that competition year.
 - d. It is up to coaches to inform their students, parents, and guests of sanctions and possible future consequences. When there are multiple teams from one school, the coach must also notify other school coaches of probationary status.
- 2. Team restrictions once placed on AW/Probation during current season:
 - a. During the same season a team is placed on AW, WSO will not sanction other teams from the school in that same year. In all WSO/regional board votes, coaches on the relevant board for that region/division may not vote.
 - b. Teams placed on AW or probation following a regional tournament may NOT advance to the next level of competition in that year (State &/or Nationals.).

- c. Once a team has been placed on probation, ALL teams from that school (and the SCHOOL) are officially placed on probation going into the following competition year, as well as the second year after probationary status is identified.
- 3. There will be two forms of sanctions:

a. Annual Warning

- i. An Annual Warning is the first official sanction. There are no immediate consequences for an annual warning beyond the DQ/EDQ scores, but serves as notification further issues will have more consequences for the teams/programs involved.
- ii. Programs may be put on Annual Warning any time during the competition year by a vote of the tournament's regional board following their misbehavior, even if not punished at the time.
 - (1) A board may put an out-of-region team on Annual Warning.
 - (2) Programs will have a chance to appeal to the state board, whose decision is final.
- iii. Programs that receive an EDQ at any tournament, will automatically be placed on an Annual Warning.
- iv. Programs that receive two or more cumulative DQs for safety or event violations during the competition season should be considered for Annual Warning.
- v. Programs that receive a second EDQ will automatically be placed on full probation for that competition year. The <u>team</u> that received the second EDQ shall be unranked at the tournament they received the EDQ.
- vi. Programs that receive another DQ after being placed on Annual Warning will be reviewed for probation by their regional board, or the state board (if it occurs at the State competition). The tournament staff will decide if the specific DQ while on Annual Warning should prevent the relevant team from being ranked.
- vii. An Annual Warning will last from the date of issue until the completion of the equivalent tournament the next competition year, e.g., NW Regional B Tournament (or 365 days if the tournament is not held).
- viii. Repeated Annual Warnings may result in being placed on probation by the WSO board.

b. Full Probation

- i. Even without being placed on AW, schools may be placed on probation based on gross behaviors in a tournament at any time by a vote of the regional or state board.
- ii. Unless identified otherwise, probation lasts **two** competition years (in addition to the remainder of the current season) unless determined otherwise by the WSO board.
 - (1) Schools on probation may not register more than two teams for two years (or as long as on probationary status).
- iii. Receiving a DQ or EDQ at any tournament while on probation will cause the team to be unranked (e.g., will not advance to next level of Science Olympiad tournaments).
- iv. Receiving an EDQ while on probation will extend probation by a competition year. Programs that receive a DQ will be voted on by the state board as to whether to extend their probation.
- v. Repeated probation extensions may result in programs not being able to participate in WSO for a number of years at the state board's discretion.
- 4. Head coaches and the school administration shall be notified by the State Director by email upon being placed on AW or probationary status, or if continued probationary status, and expectations for getting off probation. No response from the coach or administration is necessary; board decision is final.
- 5. At board discretion as circumstances deem necessary schools may be asked not to return to WSO indefinitely or for a specific period of time, if longer than the automatic 5-year ban.