



Exploring the World of Science
New York State Science Olympiad, Inc.
4649 Whetstone Road
Manlius, New York 13104-2516
www.newyorkscioly.org

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August 17, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL:

Regional Site Coordinators
Invitational Site Coordinators
Team Coaches
Event Supervisors

**Re: New York State Science Olympiad
Notifications for the Upcoming Tournament Season**

To the Friends and Members of the New York State Science Olympiad:

I hope this letter finds you well and hope you enjoyed a relatively restful summer break. I write to notify you of some developments and changes that will affect the New York State Science Olympiad ("NYSSO") in the upcoming 2020-2021 Tournament Season.

As you can imagine, the ongoing health concerns across our State and Nation will necessitate a significant alteration to the upcoming Tournament Season. Please rest assured that your health and general welfare, along with that of the students, event staff, and volunteers has been of chief concern to the NYSSO Board of Directors over these past few months. The decisions that we have made, discussed below, have come from a sober and reflective mindset of balancing these health concerns along with the desire to involve students in engaging, challenging, meaningful, and competitive STEM events. Further, the decisions listed below were made in order to minimize the uncertainty that still presents itself to all of us, not only this month, but also in the months that lie ahead. That is, the NYSSO Board of Directors and I, by this letter, endeavor to present to the entire State a Science Olympiad program that strives to minimize the last minute let-downs, the booked-then-canceled plans, and ultimately the hard work that sadly went unrecognized.

As you are no doubt aware, Science Olympiad, Inc. ("Nationals") announced in May 2020 a Rules Replay for the 2020-2021 Tournament Season, so that students could retain and reuse their compiled resources and materials. The link to the Rules Replay can be found here:

https://www.soinc.org/sites/default/files/uploaded_files/2020_Rules_Replay_Rationale_031820.pdf

Given the 2020-2021 National Science Olympiad Rules Replay, the ongoing health crisis, the uncertainty of school openings, the uncertain status of extra-/co-curricular activities, and the overall upcoming uncertainty for the rest of September, the following will be applicable to the upcoming 2020-2021 Tournament Season:

1) **Registration Opening Date:**

Registration for both Division B and Division C will open on **September 1, 2020** at 9:00 a.m.

The Registration Fee will still be \$225.00 per Team (A, B, and C).

2) **D Teams:**

For the past few years, D Teams have been permitted to participate, but only at Invitational Tournaments. For this Tournament Season, the Board has decided to suspend its policy and allow D Teams to officially compete at the Regional Tournaments. Please contact Regional & Invitational Tournament Director Maha Hrbac (mhrbac@newyorkscioly.org) regarding D Teams.

The Registration Fee will still be \$100.00 for a D Team.

3) **2020-2021 Regional & State STAR Program:**

All **in-person** Regional Tournaments and State Tournaments for both Division B and Division C are **anceled**.

HOWEVER, using the outstanding guidance provided by the National Science Olympiad, in conjunction with New York and the other State Directors, NYSSO is pleased to announce our Regional & State STAR Program. The STAR Program is NYSSO's **Science Tournaments Accessed Remotely** program. This STAR Program is New York State Science Olympiad's version of the National Science Olympiad's Mini SO Format.

By this Program, Science Olympiad Teams will be able to participate in selected Science Olympiad Events both remotely and safely. [The selected Events and Program Schedule for Regional and State Tournaments are attached]

Upon your review of the attached, you will notice that some of the offered Events will be modified (e.g., dry lab events). All offered Event tests will be designed, formatted, and written in a manner that Students ***may complete them at home, without the need for faculty, parent, or adult supervision***. We anticipate offering all 15 indicated Events this Tournament Season. Each Region will run **ALL** of the indicated Events and **ALL** Events will be counted (no Event drops permitted).

Upon your review of the attached, you will also notice that some of the Events will not be offered (e.g., Build Events). Unfortunately, the Build Events must be a much grieved loss this Tournament Season. This was indeed a hard decision that the Board and I made, particularly since another Board Member and I are involved in the National Technology Committee. We considered several (and I do mean several) different possibilities, but in the end the Build Events will not be offered.

I understand all too well that in-person Tournaments with all 23 Events is the gold-standard of Science Olympiad Tournaments. I also understand that participating in Events with and against others is, along with the participation itself, another key component to in-person Tournaments. Likewise, I understand that the STAR Program may be a let down for some as well. The lessons learned by the New York State Science Olympiad community in March through May 2020 were indeed hard and saddening. Further, the Board and I have not forgotten the State Tournaments of 2020, along with the Division B Regional Tournaments in Lower Hudson, Mid Hudson, and Midwestern Regions.

Please understand that the Board and I have considered **almost every** possible situation and configuration for the Tournaments and Events. Personally, as State Director, I began considering, in-depth and at-length, what was to be done in the 2020-2021 Tournament Season starting back on March 8, 2020. In terms of planning for this upcoming Tournament Season, I think it better to be considered overly cautious and reliably consistent, than woefully careless. Further, although the STAR Program may be a let down to some, it has been tailored and developed in order to consistently take into account whatever situation may be thrown our way in the upcoming months and allow all members of the New York State Science Olympiad to create not only a reliable roadmap, but also a predictable and practicable plan for the entire State to move ahead.

4) 2020-2021 Regional & State STAR Program Mechanics & Questions:

a) Q: Okay, so how does this work?

A: Let's look at the Regional STAR Program for Division C for an example.

It's very, very (very), simple...

On February 6, 2021 at 7:30 a.m. **ALL** Division C Regional Teams' students participating in Anatomy & Physiology, Astronomy, and Circuit Lab will go to www.newyorkscioly.org and download their respective tests and answer sheet. They will have until 8:30 a.m. to complete **AND** upload their answer sheet to a Regional and Event-Specific Drop Box. Any answer sheet received after 8:30 a.m. will not be graded. Further, only **ONE** answer sheet per team, per event will be graded.

At 9:00 a.m. **ALL** Division C Regional Teams' students participating in Chemistry Lab, Designer Genes, and Dynamic Planet will go to www.newyorkscioly.org and download their respective tests and answer sheet.

And so on for each time bracket...

That's it. But should you need more information, more will be provided over the coming weeks.

- b) Q: How many team members on a team and how many team members for an Event?
A: Same as last year, 15 Team Members per team. Medals will be awarded to 2 Team Members per Team per Event. Medals and Trophies will be awarded on a Region-by-Region basis with the Regional Site Coordinators making the determination as to the medal and trophy places to be awarded.
- c) Q: How can 2 students work together if they are apart?
A: Students may work together even if they are apart. They may call each other, set-up a video teleconference, converse on game consoles, etc. As I mentioned before, all offered Event tests will be designed, formatted, and written in a manner that Students may complete them at home, without the need for faculty, parent, or adult supervision. In the end, though, only **ONE** answer sheet may be submitted.
- d) Q: What about cheating?
A: We are relying on students to maintain a strict observance of the Science Olympiad Honor Code.
- e) Q: Why are the Tests not administered on an online data platform?
A: First, and foremost, online data platforms take some time to navigate for new users. This is especially problematic when students are concerned with completing their tests in a timed environment. Most students, on the other hand, are generally comfortable with e-mailing, downloading, and uploading. Secondly, and equally important, reliable WiFi may be a concern for some students. Ultimately, we needed to develop a method that catered to students' common proficiencies and circumstances.
- f) Q: I am a Team Coach, Volunteer, etc., will I still be needed to help out?
A: Yes, Absolutely! New York State Science Olympiad, the Regional Tournaments, the Events, and the Students rely on your hard work and dedicated spirit of volunteerism. Your Regional Site Coordinators will be in contact with you over the course of the next few months regarding what you can do. At the very least, you will be called upon to help grade tests, verify team participation, and ensure the overall quality of the Regional Tournament. Also, just so you know, grading will be much simpler and take less time than it has been in the past.
- More information regarding specific scoring instructions will be provided over the course of the next few months.
- g) Q: How will State Qualifying Teams be determined?
A: Same as last year. Each Region is guaranteed at least 2 State Qualifying Teams from their Region. The remaining slots will be determined by a percentage of the number of **COMPLETED & PAID** Registrations received by NYSSO for each Region on December 31, 2020.

And now, for the general beginning of the year announcements and notifications...

1) **MY SO:**

The Science Olympiad, Inc. has developed a program called MY SO: a 9-month, calendar-based set of supports to keep students engaged in Science Olympiad in school, afterschool, and at home. Each themed month is connected to a popular Science Olympiad subject like Epidemiology, Space, or Structure Building, and will contain free resources like Lesson Plans and STEM Sessions, webinars, and interviews with leading experts in the field about careers and workforce. National Event Supervisors and STEM content partners will help to bring the best of Science Olympiad to life.

One Thursday a month, the National website will be hosting STEM Showdowns – National-level online Science Olympiad tests students will take in real time to gauge their knowledge against their peers, complete with prizes and a national monthly leaderboard. MY SO can be used as a standalone or to support any regular Science Olympiad season. The STEM Showdowns are optional and will be single-player, single-payer. The calendar of MY SO Events can be found here:

https://www.soinc.org/sites/default/files/uploaded_files/MY_SO_Calendar_Page_2021_.pdf

We heartily encourage you all to review these materials and to participate in this worthwhile and engaging program!

2) **NYSSO Corporate Address:**

Please be aware that the corporate address is:

***New York State Science Olympiad, Inc.
4649 Whetstone Road
Manlius, New York 13104-2516***

Kindly inform your school's business office to direct all mail to the above address.

3) **Regional & Invitational Tournament Director:**

Board Member and Treasurer Maha Hrbac has been re-appointed to fill the post of Regional & Invitational Tournament Director. For the majority of you, she will be your primary point of contact regarding all aspects of the Regional and Invitational Tournaments that happen throughout New York State. Among the many things that she will handle are the Regional Site Coordinator Meetings, Regional Site Coordinator requests, Team Registrations, etc. Her e-mail address: mhrbac@newyorkscioly.org.

4) **New York City Region, Division C:**

By the request of the Regional Site Coordinators: New York City West and New York City East, have been renamed New York City North and New York City South, respectively. The boundaries of the Regions will remain the same: 59th Street & Columbus Circle. New York City North will cover Bronx County and northern New York County. New York City South will cover Richmond, Kings, Queens, and southern New York County.

5) New Regional Site Coordinators:

The Board and I wish to welcome our new Regional Site Coordinators for the upcoming Tournament Season:

Mildred Castaneda
Dianna Prout

Western Long Island
Capital

Division B
Division B & C

*The Board and I also wish to offer a
**VERY special thank you to all returning Regional Site Coordinators
(as well as to Past Regional Site Coordinators Meghan Olsen & Rachel Holland).***

∞ ∞ **THANK YOU** ∞ ∞

6) Regional Site Coordinator Meetings:

We will again be hosting two Regional Site Coordinator Meetings:

Saturday, October 17, 2020
Saturday, October 24, 2020

by Zoom Teleconference (the ESM Group)
by Zoom Teleconference (the KMHS Group)

Regional & Invitational Tournament Director Maha Hrbac will be in contact with all Regional Site Coordinators regarding attendance.

7) Capital Development Director:

Board Member Kathy Toy has been re-appointed to fill the post of Capital Development Director. She will be the point of contact for Regional Site Coordinators wishing to undertake fundraising activities. A past Regional Site Coordinator for the Lake Erie-Niagara Region, she has had great success in raising funds and donations for her former Region. Her e-mail address: ktoy@newyorkscioly.org.

8) State Director:

I have been re-appointed the State Director for New York State. I have also been re-appointed the Chief Operations Officer for New York State Science Olympiad, Inc. I will be responsible for liaising with Science Olympiad, Inc. and for ensuring the responsibility of the Board of Directors to your concerns. I will also be responsible for handling questions regarding State policies or general questions you may have. I will also, if need be, direct your questions or communications to the appropriate Director. My e-mail address: jbeauregard@newyorkscioly.org.

9) New Board Members:

The Board is pleased to announce that Thomas Reidy has been elected to the Board of Directors at the June 13, 2020 Annual Meeting. Tom is the current Regional Site Coordinator for the Lake Erie-Niagara Region. He is, and for many years has been, the State Event Supervisor for the Balsa Build Events.

My apologies for the length of this letter, but I wanted to keep you all informed of what was taking place. I look forward to working with and hearing from all of you in the upcoming months. I also wish you and teams the best of luck for the upcoming Tournament Season. I sincerely hope that you find the NYSSO 2021 Regional & State STAR Program engaging and worthwhile.

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NYS Science Olympiad
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If it is not too much of an imposition, may I request that each Regional Site Coordinator forward this letter to the Team Coaches and Event Supervisors in their Region?

As always, should you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

/s/ John J. Beauregard

John J. Beauregard

JJB:jjb

cc: NYSSO BODM (via electronic mail)

**New York State Science Olympiad
2021 Regional STAR Program Schedule - Division B
Saturday, March 6, 2021**

Event	7:30am-8:30am	9:00am-10:00am	10:30am-11:30am	12:00pm-1:00pm	1:30pm-2:30pm	3:00pm-4:00pm
Anatomy & Physiology	All Teams					
Circuit Lab ¹	All Teams					
Crime Busters ²						All Teams
Density Lab ¹		All Teams				
Disease Detectives					All Teams	
Dynamic Planet			All Teams			
Food Science ¹				All Teams		
Fossils		All Teams				
Heredity			All Teams			
Machines ¹			All Teams			
Meteorology					All Teams	
Ornithology						All Teams
Reach for the Stars				All Teams		
Road Scholar	All Teams					
Water Quality ¹		All Teams				

¹ Test Only: Events limited to the written test portion of the Event as described in the Event Rules only.

² Dry Lab Only: Events providing participants with pre-generated data for lab activities in the Event Rules that they are then expected to analyze.

New York State Science Olympiad 2021 Regional STAR Program Schedule - Division C Saturday, February 6, 2021						
Event	7:30am-8:30am	9:00am-10:00am	10:30am-11:30am	12:00pm-1:00pm	1:30pm-2:30pm	3:00pm-4:00pm
Anatomy & Physiology	All Teams					
Astronomy	All Teams					
Chemistry Lab ¹		All Teams				
Circuit Lab ¹	All Teams					
Codebusters			All Teams			
Designer Genes		All Teams				
Disease Detectives			All Teams			
Dynamic Planet		All Teams				
Forensics ²				All Teams		
Fossils				All Teams		
GeoLogic Mapping						All Teams
Machines ¹					All Teams	
Ornithology			All Teams			
Sounds of Music ¹						All Teams
Water Quality					All Teams	

¹ Test Only: Events limited to the written test portion of the Event as described in the Event Rules only.

² Dry Lab Only: Events providing participants with pre-generated data for lab activities in the Event Rules that they are then expected to analyze.

**New York State Science Olympiad
2021 State STAR Program Schedule - Division B
Saturday, April 17, 2021**

Event	7:30am-8:30am	9:00am-10:00am	10:30am-11:30am	12:00pm-1:00pm	1:30pm-2:30pm	3:00pm-4:00pm
Anatomy & Physiology	All Teams					
Circuit Lab ¹	All Teams					
Crime Busters ²						All Teams
Density Lab ¹		All Teams				
Disease Detectives					All Teams	
Dynamic Planet			All Teams			
Food Science ¹				All Teams		
Fossils		All Teams				
Heredity			All Teams			
Machines ¹			All Teams			
Meteorology					All Teams	
Ornithology						All Teams
Reach for the Stars				All Teams		
Road Scholar	All Teams					
Water Quality ¹		All Teams				

¹ Test Only: Events limited to the written test portion of the Event as described in the Event Rules only.

² Dry Lab Only: Events providing participants with pre-generated data for lab activities in the Event Rules that they are then expected to analyze.

New York State Science Olympiad 2021 Regional STAR Program Schedule - Division C Saturday, March 13, 2021						
Event	7:30am-8:30am	9:00am-10:00am	10:30am-11:30am	12:00pm-1:00pm	1:30pm-2:30pm	3:00pm-4:00pm
Anatomy & Physiology	All Teams					
Astronomy	All Teams					
Chemistry Lab ¹		All Teams				
Circuit Lab ¹	All Teams					
Codebusters			All Teams			
Designer Genes		All Teams				
Disease Detectives			All Teams			
Dynamic Planet		All Teams				
Forensics ²				All Teams		
Fossils				All Teams		
GeoLogic Mapping						All Teams
Machines ¹					All Teams	
Ornithology			All Teams			
Sounds of Music ¹						All Teams
Water Quality					All Teams	

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