

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please go over this code with the members of your team and coaching staff. Every member of the team must sign the Code of Conduct. All members of the coaching staff and the principal of your school must also sign this form along with the Vandalism Policy. This form must be faxed to (575) 835-5274 *prior* to the State Tournament or turned in to the Registration Desk the morning of the competition.

**Any team who fails to turn in the signed form or fails to follow the guidelines provided in the Code of Conduct is subject to immediate disqualification.**

## NEW MEXICO SCIENCE OLYMPIAD GENERAL RULES

Teams are expected to compete in tournament events with honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the competition. Team members are expected to be the builders of all the devices used in the events. The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. Students, coaches, supervisors, parents, and guests are expected to display courtesy and respect toward Science Olympiad officials, other teams, and guests of the Science Olympiad. Failure to show honesty and/or courtesy by a participant, coach or guest of the team may result in disqualification of the team from the event, the entire tournament or future tournaments. Our collective example will promote the spirit of cooperation among all participants. Consider the words of Albert Einstein regarding integrity, "The most important human endeavor is the striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depend on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to our lives." Therefore:

1. Teams may not interpret the rules so that they have an unfair advantage over the rules or another team.
2. Unless otherwise stated, it is generally understood that if notes, resources, calculators, actions etc., are not excluded, then they are permitted unless they violate the spirit of the problem.
3. Once teams have entered the event area to compete, they may not a) leave until they are finished; b) return once they have left; c) communicate with outside resources, including people, places, etc. by any means. This effectively excludes the use of any computer, PDA, calculators, wireless devices, phones, etc. that have access to external communication or data retrieval during an event unless specifically permitted.
4. Safety is of the utmost importance. Event supervisors are obligated to prevent unsafe acts and devices. Safety decisions are not subject to appeal as long as they are applied equally to all teams. Contestants may not bring or use a) flammable liquids or flame sources of any type, such as matches, cigarette lighters, alcohol and acetone b) nor bring or use acids/bases of any concentration except for lemon juice, vinegar and other mildly acidic/alkaline naturally occurring substances.
5. Coaches, teachers, parents, and other adult supervisors are responsible for insuring that any applicable laws, regulations and school policies are not broken.
6. One or more of the 15 current team members must have constructed all pre-built devices presented for judging. Any of the current team members may impound/demonstrate/operate the device at the competition unless stated otherwise in the rules.
7. Any person designated by the coach can impound devices unless stated otherwise in the rules.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

The Science Olympiad is designed to foster both cooperation and competition. Both Coaches and Team Members must adhere to a strict personal code of conduct that:

1. Exemplifies respect for oneself and one's own team as well as respect for opposing teams. The code requires friendly and fair competitive behavior that builds spirit of competition that is constructive, spurring individuals and teams to do their best work. Congratulations should be extended to one's own team members as well as the members of other teams that compete well.
2. Exemplifies a spirit of teamwork within one's own team. The code requires that team members find ways to help each other and the team to be successful, even if it means that one or more individuals on the team do not get to compete, as he or she would like.
3. As a coach, provide leadership that seeks to help students maintain a friendly and fair competitive attitude and cooperative team spirit. Both coaches' and students' behavior adheres to both the spirit and letter of the rules related to the regional, state, and national competitions, and the stated guidelines for each event. Any person found to be violating the letter or intent of such rules will be immediately disqualified from the competition.
4. If a coach, or a student, through his/her coach, has any problem with the way an event is run or scored, they should communicate that problem to the proper official in a timely manner, so that it can be resolved quickly. Both coaches and students will accept the decision of the Arbitration Committee as final. When a decision is rendered, all further conflict over the situation will cease.
5. All members of the competing teams should respect the property of the institution hosting the event. The buildings and grounds should be left free of damage and litter at the end of the day's events.
6. Attitudes, speech, and actions of judges, coaches, officials, and students should be nondiscriminatory on the basis of race, sex, socio-economic status, ethnic background, religion, national origin or handicap.
7. Coaches and team members will recognize the achievements of both their team and other competing teams with enthusiasm at the awards ceremony. The Code requires that all recognition be positive. No name-calling or derisive comments about competing teams will be tolerated.
8. The Regional and State Olympiad Executive Committees will make a good faith effort to run each event using the rules set forth by the National Olympiad. When modifications or interpretations are made, every attempt will be made to inform all coaches of such modifications.

**We, the undersigned team members agree to follow the "Code of Conduct."**

1. Team Member  
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2. Team Member  
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3. Team Member  
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12. Team Member  
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13. Team Member  
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14. Team Member  
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15. Team Member  
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16. Alternate Member  
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17. Alternate Member  
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## VANDALISM POLICY

If a team member or members or persons associated with a team commit(s) an act of vandalism, the team will be disqualified from the competition and will receive no points. No member of that team will be awarded a medal in any event. An individual who commits an act of vandalism may be barred from future competitions.

Each sponsoring school must agree to pay the cost of repairing damage from any act of vandalism. A school must pay this restitution before it can register a team for the Science Olympiad in a subsequent year.

Vandalism means a deliberate action which results in damage to property. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti, damage to facility property, damage to the personal property of competitors, judges, and spectators.

I have read and understand New Mexico Science Olympiad policy on acceptable behavior including policies of vandalism and discourtesy, and I have discussed this with the team members, and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by New Mexico Science Olympiad officials.

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**Head Coach Signature**

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**Assistant Coach Signature**

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**Assistant Coach Signature**

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**Assistant Coach Signature**

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**Principal Signature**