



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COACHES

If you have any questions about events, please contact the Science Olympiad office immediately! Any clarifications that are received after today will be posted on the web. If you have trouble downloading or reading anything on our web page, please call us (575) 835-5678 or email us sciencefair@admin.nmt.edu.

EVENT CLARIFICATIONS, Q&As, AND RESOURCES:

IMPOUNDS:

Battery Buggy (B), It's About Time (C), Mission Possible (C) 7:45 – 9 am, Mousetrap/Out & Back (C), Physical Science Lab – Wind (B), Trajectory (B/C)

PHYSICAL SCIENCE LAB

Q. For the lab set up, is there any prohibition against inserting two wire coils between the motor and the voltmeter? The instructions do not mention the possibility, but they don't specifically preclude it either.

A. The teams have the objective to build a blade assembly. The connection(s) between the motor and the meter are not part of that assembly. The motor, the connections and the meter will be provided by the supervisor and will be the same for all teams(event parameters 2.d).

MISSION POSSIBLE

Q. There is a toggle mercury switch we would like to use for Mission Possible. It is sealed in glass. Would it be considered a dangerous object?

A. Mercury, in all forms, has been banned in many schools including APS, and this includes other items that contain mercury, such as thermometers. Based on that, I would be inclined to forbid mercury switches from the event, especially this one where there's a fairly high incidence of device failure, breakage, spillage, etc. So, no, I don't think we should allow it.

IT'S ABOUT TIME and COMPUTE THIS

"Here are some clarifications for 'Compute This' and 'It's About Time' from the coaching sessions." - Jason Kooi

IT'S ABOUT TIME

(1) Students are allowed to use scientific calculators that are non-programmable.

(2) From Part 3 (c): Devices can not rely on nuclear reactions to tell time.

(3) From Part 4 part I (e): Teams will have no more than five minutes to calculate and record the time and prepare for the next trial.

(4) LAST year's written tests are to be used as an example. The tests are located at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~science/olympiad/rules.htm>.

COMPUTE THIS

(1) Students will only get one computer per team.

(2) Event Parameters: Although students are not allowed to supply their own calculator, they will not be penalized for using the calculator accessory in Windows or the functions in Excel.

(3) Event Parameters: The PC will be password protected. Each group is supplied with a unique user ID and Password.

(4) Event Parameters: Cell phones are not allowed. **All cell phones will be impounded at the beginning of the event and returned (upon verification by ID) when the students submit their work.**

(5) **Part 3 (d):** Students may copy and paste the answers.



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(6) **Part 3 (d):** Although students may use Google or other public search engines, the answers must come from the <http://www.nasa.gov/> domain. The answers must be accompanied by the appropriate URLs.

(7) Tiebreakers: The order of importance is:

ii. Completeness and accuracy of quantitative data collected **iii.** Overall quality of graphical data presentation **i.** Number of short answer questions correctly answered **i***. Quality of response to short answer questions (this includes whether or not the students used their own words or merely copied and pasted the response)

(8) The software on NM Tech's computers is Microsoft Office Suite 2007.

(9) LAST year's written tests are to be used as an example. The tests are located at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~science/olympiad/rules.htm>.

ANATOMY/HEALTH SCIENCE (B/C):

Q: I was perusing the anatomy/physiology page and the section on muscles lists some muscular pathologies. I am unfamiliar with torricellis. I believe it could have been misspelled or misread for torticollis.

A: I had never heard of torricellis-- named after Avangelista Torricellis who invented the barometer (and that is why pressure was originally measured in "torr") . However, I agree, I believe the writers were referring to torticollis, neck twisting, and that is what we will follow for the manual.

WRITTEN POLICY ON PENALTY POINTS

- ▶ Event Supervisors, Science Olympiad Director or Coordinator may assess penalty points.
- ▶ **Any penalty points assessed will be taken from the OVERALL TEAM SCORE.**
- ▶ It is your responsibility to inform your students, team parents, other coaches, and visitors of these rules IN ADVANCE OF THE COMPETITION.
- ▶ Penalty points cannot be taken to arbitration. They are final at the time of assessment!

Penalty points may be assessed for any of the following reasons.

1. **Interference**—Only students actually competing in an event (those who have signed in on the sign-in sheet provided to Event Supervisors) may enter areas where events are being held. **Spectator events are at the discretion of the Event Supervisor.**
 - a) For any student, coach, teacher, parent, or chaperone interfering with, or disrupting the administration of an event, up to 5 penalty points may be assessed.
 - b) For any student, coach, teacher, parent, or chaperone entering an event without proper authorization to do so, up to 5 penalty points may be assessed.
2. **Policy on Electronic Communications**
 - a) Students with cell phones, PDAs, two-way radios, (ANY DEVICE USED FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION) must have them in the OFF (not vibrate) position during any event in which they are competing. Students who violate this policy will be penalized up to 10 penalty points.
 - b) Electronic communications usage will be allowed in buildings as long as it does not disrupt any event taking place in that area. Event Supervisors, Science Olympiad Director or Coordinator may assess penalty points for violation of this policy at their discretion.

WRITTEN POLICY ON CHEATING

1. Any individual who cheats during any event will be penalized by disqualification of the team from that event.



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2. If a team, team member, or anyone associated with that team (coach, teacher, parent or chaperone, etc.) deliberately takes an action that impairs the ability of other teams to fairly compete in an event, that team will be disqualified from that event.
3. If cheating occurs by a team in more than one event, or in successive years, the team may be disqualified that year, or the following year, from the entire competition.
4. Disqualification results in 0 points.

TEAM HOME ROOMS

NM Science Olympiad will not assign team homerooms. Please note:

1. As a team coach, you are also responsible for making sure your delegation understands that this is a University campus and business is conducted here on the weekends. Please make sure your delegation understands that we expect all visitors to be respectful to students, faculty, and staff as they are conducting business and research in the buildings.
2. As a team coach, you are responsible for keeping the area in which your team claims as “Home Base” clean during the day. You are responsible for the contents, the cleanliness of the room, and putting the room back in the manner in which it was found.
3. The following areas are **OFF LIMITS** to all teams during the Olympiad.
 - Any area assigned for use during the Olympiad is off limits. (Including Speare 113)
 - Jones Hall Annex 2nd Floor - Only students participating in an event on this floor are allowed in this area.
 - Jones Hall Annex 3rd Floor
 - Macey Center may not be used as a “home base” area.
 - Joseph Fidel Building - Third Floor Ballroom is off limits!
 - ALL Stairways and Stairwells are “off limits” and may not be used as a “home base” area.

Olympiad Officials will periodically check campus locations to ensure that these expectations are being met.

TRIAL EVENTS

There are NO trial events for 2010.

ARBITRATION:

In the event of arbitration please refer to the following rules.

1. The event supervisor must sign the arbitration form prior to its submission to the Arbitration Committee. This doesn't mean the event supervisor agrees with the appeal, but that the event supervisor and the coach have discussed the matter. Try to solve appeals at the event level.
2. Appeals regarding administration of an event must be submitted within 30 minutes of completion of the event.
3. The arbitration panel will determine time of submission.
4. The team coach must submit appeals.
5. The student(s) competing in the event under appeal must present the information to the arbitration panel. Coaches may be present, but must refrain from comment unless addressed by the arbitration panel.

AWARDS

- ▶ 1st-3rd place medals will be awarded to each team member.
- ▶ New Mexico Tech will award 10 New Mexico Science Awards of \$700 (to senior participants) to NM Tech for the Fall Semester, 2010. Award winners will be the top ten, twelfth grade participants according to their individual placing in events. Students will receive their award at the time of enrollment at NM Tech in the Fall Semester 2010. Please remind your seniors to sign in (legibly!) at each event.

MACEY CENTER

The Macey Center Upper Lobby Concession Stand will be open from 7:30-9:00 am and 3:00-5:00 pm.

- ▶ Food or drinks from outside sources may not be brought into Macey Center. Please do not take your food or drink purchased in Macey Center outside, as it will not be allowed back in.
- ▶ Macey Center may not be used as a “home base” area.



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CAMPUS DINING SERVICES

Schools wishing to purchase breakfast or lunch for their entire team should contact campus dining at (575) 835-5111. Purchase Orders will only be accepted by RSVP. See letter enclosed.

SNOW ALERT

In the event of a winter storm, the Olympiad state finals will not be cancelled. The logistics of rescheduling over 1,000 people and associated facilities, food, lodging, and travel are inconceivable. It is the responsibility and obligation of your school district to determine the safety of travel for your students. NM Tech and NM Science Olympiad are not responsible for the safety of your students as they travel to the competition.

SCORING

There will be no public posting of scores and coaches **WILL NOT** be allowed in the Scoring Room.

FRIDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

On Friday Evening, a public Star Party will be held at the NM Tech Etscorn Observatory beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information and directions to the Etscorn Observatory:

In celebration and recognition of your achievement in science, math, and engineering, New Mexico Tech welcome you with a special event that is to be announced. Check our website for updated information at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~science/olympiad>.

SOCORRO AREA INFORMATION:

- Tours can be pre-arranged by contacting the following individuals:
- ▶ NRAO/Very Large Array—Self-guided tours only. The Visitors Center is open until dusk. <http://www.vla.nrao.edu/genpub/tours/>
 - ▶ Bosque del Apache—Contact (575) 835-1828.
 - ▶ New Mexico Tech Admissions Office – (575) 835-5424

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