

Updated 10/30/11

## Virginia Science Olympiad New Team Information



### Proposed Time Line

- Registration (September – December)
- Coaches Clinic (October 22, 2011)
- Invitational Tournaments (January – February)
- Regional Tournaments (February – March)
- State Tournament – (Late March – Early April)
- National Tournament – May 18-19, 2012 @ University of Central Florida, Orlando

Science Olympiad consists of 23 events in both Division B (Grades 6 – 8) and Division C (Grades 9 – 12). Science Olympiad is generally run as an after-school activity, and may have unlimited participants at the school level. Each school can register multiple teams and each team can consist of a maximum of 15 members. (However, schools may choose to send less than 15 members on each team and may choose to compete in less than 23 events.)

- Division C schools are only allowed up to 7 high school seniors to participate on each team.
- Students from a school with multiple teams can only be a member of one of those teams at any given time.
- For schools fielding teams in multiple divisions (A, B, or C) a student may participate in only one division during a competition season.
- Home-schooled teams are also allowed under specific guidelines, please contact us for details.

Following the competition, medals are awarded to students for each of the events for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place, and team trophies are awarded for the top 5 teams in each division.

### Events

The detailed descriptions of each of these events can be found in the Rules Manual updated and published yearly to reflect the current year's events. On the [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) website there is a short description of each event. Official Rules manuals will be sent to all registered teams when payment to VASO is received. Additional manuals may be ordered from the [Science Olympiad Store](#).

In order to run high quality tournaments, we want to insure that the optimum number and types of events are run so that the maximum number of schools and students are able to participate. Events run for 2011-12 by Virginia Science Olympiad are posted on the [virginiaso.com](http://virginiaso.com) website.

### Registration

Each school may register up to 3 teams for competition at the Invitational/Regional level. Registration will begin September 2011 and must be received by December 2012. Registration fees for 2011 will be \$260 for the first team and \$160 for each additional team. **Schools that did not participate in Virginia Science Olympiad during the last five years (“New Teams”) may register up to 3 teams for \$160 for each team.** Registration fees include 1 rule manual per school, as well as participation in a regional tournament (3 teams/school) and the state tournament (1 team/school.)

All policies and requirements are subject to change. Please check the website for updates – [virginiaso.com](http://virginiaso.com).

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## **The Competition**

Virginia will host two Regional Tournaments in February 2012. All teams from a particular school may only attend one regional competition, and each school may send ONE team to the Virginia State Tournament. The winner of the Virginia State Tournament for each division (B & C) will be invited to compete in the National Tournament, scheduled for May 18-19, 2012 hosted by the University of South Florida.

## **Preparation**

To prepare for this competition coaches should consult the Rules Manual and the event help found at: [http://soinc.org/2010\\_div\\_b\\_events](http://soinc.org/2010_div_b_events) for Division B events  
[http://soinc.org/2010\\_div\\_c\\_events](http://soinc.org/2010_div_c_events) for Division C events

Holding after school weekly practices is also important. You can also visit other states' website to get resources and practice tests. Here are some links:

<http://www.sciencenc.com/>

[http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright\\_center/products/sci\\_olympiad/sci\\_olympiad.html](http://www.tufts.edu/as/wright_center/products/sci_olympiad/sci_olympiad.html)

[http://scioly.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://scioly.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Please keep in mind that many of these websites and tests incorporate old rules that are no longer in effect. However, they still serve as good resources and samples.

You can also purchase material from the National Science Olympiad Store. Here you can find training materials which include old test packets from previous national tournaments as well as DVDs and CDs with lessons. Here is the link to the store: <http://store.soinc.org/>

While all study guides, notebooks, 'cheat sheets', device designs and constructions must be created by the students, outside assistance such as parents and science professionals are great resources!

## **Tournament Policies**

### *Requirements for Participants*

All participants will be required to sign a VASO Consent & Agreement form prior to participating in a VASO Tournament. This form may cover specifics regarding vandalism, interference, sportsmanship and will include the Science Olympiad Pledge.

### *Requirements for Schools*

- School Based Sponsor/Team Coach

Each registered school will be required to provide VASO with the name of both a team coach and a staff contact (Principal, Student Activities Director, etc) to be included on all VASO correspondence. In addition, the school sponsor will be responsible for mediating any intra-team or coaching issues.

- Team Policies/Expectations

VASO strongly suggests that each team develop a mission, team policies and expectations for participation in the school's Science Olympiad team. Parents and students should be made aware of these expectations at the beginning of the competition year.

- Tournament Requirements

Each registered school may be required to run and/or write an event at the Regional and/or State Tournament (depending on the number of registered schools). Additionally, teams will be required to

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provide two additional volunteers at each tournament to help with registration, scoring, concessions or other tournament administration as needed by the tournament directors.

Please Note:

It is essential that your students know the rules stated in the Rules Manual. For each event, the manual specifies the topics on which the students will be tested, materials that they can bring with them and device specifications. Impound information and required safety gear (i.e. specific types of goggles or lab coats) for each event is also listed in the official rules manual. If students do not follow these rules, they may be disqualified from competing. Online or published FAQs or rule clarifications do not supersede the rules stated in the rules manual unless specifically stated by Virginia Science Olympiad.

For example, some knowledge events only allow teams to bring one 1” binder. Engineering events have very specific rules regarding size and material use. Please ensure that the students know the rules and have the required safety equipment. Virginia Science Olympiad rules and the rules stated in the event manual are final. There will be no exceptions made for these rules.

Thanks you for your interest in Science Olympiad. We look forward to seeing you at the competition.  
Virginia Science Olympiad