

Virginia Science Olympiad Tournament Policy Agreement

All penalties described below supersede any of those prescribed in specific event rules.

“Disqualification” results in a score two places greater than the number of teams competing in the tournament.

CHEATING:

(1) Any individual (coach, parent or student) who cheats during the competition will be penalized by disqualification of the team from that event.

(2) If cheating occurs by a team in more than one event, or in successive years, the team may be barred that year, or the following year, from competing.

(3) If an event team, or team member, or anyone associated with the team, deliberately takes an action that impairs the ability of other teams to fairly compete, that team will be disqualified from the event. In addition, the event team member(s) involved in the incident may be ineligible for any future Science Olympiad competitions.

I have read and understand the Virginia Science Olympiad Policy on Cheating, and I have discussed this with the team members, coaches, and parents and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by the Virginia Science Olympiad officials.

Coach (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

CLEAN UP:

If an event team, or team member, fails to clean up materials or a designated work area as instructed by an event supervisor, a penalty may be imposed as described in the event rules. If the event rules do not specify a penalty, then a 5% penalty to the team's final ranking for that event may be assessed. The coach will be notified of the infraction by the event supervisor or tournament officials.

Example: If there are 32 teams competing at a tournament, a 5% penalty to a team's ranking would result in a team's ranking being demoted by 1.6 places, rounded up to the nearest whole number, which would be 2 places. A team originally ranked 1st would be re-ranked as 3th placed after the penalty assessment. The team originally ranked 2th, would become 1st, etc.

Coach (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

CONSTRUCTED DEVICES:

This policy applies to events that require a device to be constructed and brought to the Science Olympiad either in components or as a completed device. While devices may be designed and/or constructed by any or all of the 15-member team (not to include alternates), the student primarily responsible for the design and construction of the device must be present and operating the device when it is operated for scoring at any tournament, including Regional, State, or National tournaments.

Teams are encouraged to design and construct their own customized devices. Teams will be permitted to construct their devices from purchased complete kits *only* if those complete kits are *substantially* and *materially* customized. Teams are cautioned that devices constructed from complete kits will be closely scrutinized by Event Supervisors to ensure that teams have sufficiently complied with the spirit of the competition by truly designing and constructing their own custom device.

The event supervisor(s) may extensively question the lead student as to the design and construction of the device. Questioning may include (but will not be limited to) the overall design and construction as well as the component parts, and how they operate and function in the device. Other students on the team may also be questioned at the discretion of the event supervisor or appeals/scoring committee.

If the students cannot answer the questions satisfactorily, then the event supervisor(s) has grounds to believe the students did not design and/or construct the device. The team will be disqualified.

I have read and understand the Virginia Science Olympiad Policy on Constructed Devices, and I have discussed this with the team members, coaches, and parents and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by the Virginia Science Olympiad officials.

Coach (Please Print):

Signature:

INTEREFERENCE:

Only those students actually competing in an event and those officials who may be assigned to assist with an event may enter areas where events are held. All other persons are to remain out of the competition area at all times. The competition area will be clearly marked with caution tape and or signage clearly marking the area.

Penalty Points may be assessed for the following:

1. For a student, coach, teacher, chaperone or parent entering a building, room or area where an event(s) is set up or a competition being held, without proper authorization from Virginia Science Olympiad Tournament personnel – a 10% penalty to the team's final ranking for that event may be assessed.
2. For a student, coach, teacher, chaperone or parent offering advice or verbal coaching to a team while competing, a 10% penalty to the team's final ranking for that event may be assessed.
3. For a student, coach, teacher, chaperone or parent interfering with or disrupting during an event, a 10% penalty to the team's final ranking for that event may be assessed.

Example: If there are 32 teams competing at a tournament, a 10% penalty to a team's ranking would result in a teams ranking being adjusted by 3.2 places, rounded up to the nearest whole number. A team originally ranked 1st would be re-ranked as 5th placed after the penalty assessment and all other teams would move up in ranking accordingly.

Under extreme circumstances, at the discretion of event supervisors and tournament officials, the team may be disqualified from that event and receive a score two points greater than the number of teams competing in the tournament.

NOTE: This policy applies to any person in attendance at a Virginia Science Olympiad Tournament.

I have read and understand the Virginia Science Olympiad Policy on Interference, and I have discussed this with the team members, coaches, and parents and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by the Virginia Science Olympiad officials.

Coach (Please Print):

Signature:

VANDALISM:

If a member(s) or person(s) on or associated with a team commit(s) an act of vandalism, the team may be disqualified from the competition. In egregious cases of vandalism, as determined by tournament officials, no member of that team will be awarded a medal in ANY event. An individual who commits an act of vandalism may not be awarded medals and may be barred from future competitions.

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

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

I have read and understand the Virginia Science Olympiad Policy on Vandalism, and I have discussed this with the team members, coaches, parents and administrators and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by the Virginia Science Olympiad officials.

Coach (Please Print):

Signature:

CONDUCT:

Student participants are expected to compete in tournament events with an honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the competition. The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. Students, coaches, parents and guests are expected to display courtesy and respect toward Virginia Science Olympiad officials, other teams, and guest of the Virginia Science Olympiad. Failure to show honesty, courtesy or good sportsmanship by a participant, coach, or guest of the team will result in the disqualification of the team from that event, and possibly the entire tournament or future tournaments.

I have read and understand the Virginia Science Olympiad Policy on Conduct and I have discussed this with the team members, coaches, parents and administrators and will accept the consequences of violation of the policy as assessed by the Virginia Science Olympiad officials.

Coach (Please Print):

Signature:
