

2026 EVENT SUPERVISOR GUIDE - ANATOMY&PHYSIOLOGY (B&C)

EVENT INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION – **Anatomy & Physiology** encompasses the anatomy and physiology of the selected body systems. (**Nervous, Sense Organs and Endocrine** systems for **2026**)

RULES

- Rules are available from your Tournament Director.
- **2026** should appear at the bottom by the page number.
- BE SURE TO CHECK THE RULES for Event Parameters and suggested topics.
- The rules contain suggested emphasis for Regional and State as well as the National tournament.
- If you choose to vary from the suggested areas of emphasis, please be sure to notify the Tournament Director so the teams can be notified prior to the competition.
- At www.soinc.org see the **Event Information** and **Event Supervisor** sections
- Rules clarifications are available at www.soinc.org under event information.

ROTATION —*Anatomy & Physiology (B/C) with rotating 3 body systems each year on a 4 year rotation schedule*

Year 1	Skeletal	Muscular	Integumentary	(2025)
Year 2	Nervous	Sense Organs	Endocrine	(2026)
Year 3	Respiratory	Digestive	Immune	(2027)
Year 4	Cardiovascular	Lymphatic	Excretory	(2028)

FORMAT – These events are **BEST** run as timed stations with enough stations to accommodate the number of teams competing per session. Process skills may include data collection and making observations, inferences, predictions, calculations, data collection and analysis, and conclusions. It may also be run as written test, or using PowerPoint slides

EVENT NEEDS

ROOM TYPE – a biology lab or a room with flat tables.

HELPERS – 2 or 3 helpers are needed to time stations, rotate students and proctor

EQUIPMENT – microscopes, stereoscopes, slides, specimens or pictures, probes

TIME NEEDED FOR SETUP – Be sure you have at least an hour before your competition with no event in your room so you can set up the stations.

PREPARATION FOR COMPETITION

TIME-LINE FOR PLANNING - **You will need to know the number of teams competing.**

Teams consist of two students so plan accordingly. Be sure you have enough time to prepare the questions, answer keys, answer sheets, and assemble needed equipment

ORGANIZING CONTENT –hints for developing questions.

- The Science Olympiad website [www soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) has rules clarifications, and study information for students which may be helpful to you in writing the competition.
- Balance the station content so that it reflects the content described in the rules.
- Students are expecting to see all of the topics listed in the rules to be reflected in the competition.
- Develop questions which are easy to grade.
- Objectives questions can be quickly graded.
- Specimens, models, photos or pictures may be used.
- Some free response questions may be appropriate – have a rubric to grade them

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- Students may be asked to perform a task or collect data.
- Try to use process skills as much as possible so the competition is application as well as memorization.
- Be sure test items are clearly labeled to avoid confusion in interpretation.
- Ties are broken based on selected questions or quality of free-response answers.

WRITING QUESTIONS –

- The philosophy of Science Olympiad is that the competition be inquiry- based to emphasize process skills and mental challenges using suggested content.
- Care should be taken to design the each station to require about the same amount of time.
- If there are a large number of teams per session, consider using 2 complete station setups.
- Balance the station content so that it reflects the content described in the rules. Students are expecting to see all of the topics listed in the rules to be reflected in the competition.
- Develop questions which are easy to grade.
- Objective Questions require a letter or few words and can be graded quickly
- Free Response or Essay Questions require several words or a paragraph and take longer to grade. They are good questions to use as tie breakers.
- Develop appropriate questions so that **all** ties can be broken.
- Be sure that all teams experience the same testing conditions.

VARING DIFFICULTY FOR SUCCESS OF MANY - To allow most students to be successful, it may be a good idea to vary the difficulty of questions at each station!

ANSWER SHEET ORGANIZATION – Set up the answer sheet so it is easy for students to use and easy for your team to grade. Include team name, team number, student names, as well as a place to record raw score, rank, and points. Be sure you have enough answer sheets for each team. It may be a good idea to put team names and numbers on the answer sheets ahead of time.

ANSWER KEY AND SCORING RUBRICS –

- Questions will be assigned point values.
- Students will be ranked from highest to lowest score.
- Ties will be broken by pre-determined tie-breaker questions.
- Have extra answer keys so your helpers can help you grade the competition.
- Be sure each section is grade by the same person.

RUNNING THE EVENT

SET UP TIPS

Items needed: test questions, items for each station, answer sheets, answer key, stop watches, extra pencils, tape

- It may help to have questions laminated or put in sheet protectors. This procedure eliminates damage or tampering during competition.
- Be certain that equipment and questions are placed at the station for easy access of the students.
- Taping questions to the table helps to keep stations organized and undisturbed.
- Using arrow may help students move from station to station.
- Bring extra items needed at stations as rulers. If one is needed, put three there.
- A quick supervisor checklist of useful items to include:
answer keys, answer sheets, calculator , extra mm rulers, extra pencils
extra set of questions, highlighter, masking tape, red pens, scotch tape
stapler, stop watches or timers.

CHECK IN TIPS – if possible, allow all teams to compete even if one or both members are late. They may need to miss some stations but they can do part of the competition.

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- Check each team member for wrist bands or approved ID before giving teams their answer sheet. Have extra pencils and direct students print their names on sheet.
- Direct student to turn off all non-permitted electronic devices. You may wish to have them put in a designated spot, given to someone outside the room, or placed in the student back packs and stored at a designated spot in the room.
- Allow each team to have only what is permitted in the Event Parameters.
- Keep students away from the stations until you are ready to begin the competition.
- Give all directions and safety information to all teams before beginning.
- Explain the station setup scheme and rotation pattern to the students.

ROTATION OF STUDENTS FOR STATIONS – Using arrows taped to the table helps students. Proctors can also be stations around the room to help with rotation.

TIMING – stop watches or timers are best for timing the stations. Have a person responsible for timing the event.

PROCTORING – Two or three people is adequate to help with rotation, check equipment at stations, and proctor the competition. You may want proctors to check microscopes, balances, and probes as the students rotate. If you train them during the first session, you can grade papers during successive sessions.

DEALING WITH PROBLEM SITUATIONS – **have the cell phone numbers of officials**

- DISQUALIFICATIONS OF A TEAM SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SAFETY ISSUES, CHEATING, OR ABUSIVE AND UNSPORTSMAN-LIKE BEHAVIOR.
- Be sure that tournament officials and coaches are notified of any disciplinary action.

CHECK OUT TIPS

- Be sure to get an answer sheet from each team before you allow them to leave the competition.
- Be sure the team number, team names and member names are present and legible.
- Remind students to take all their backpacks and other possessions as cell phones.

SCORING THE EVENT – DO NOT GIVE OUT RESULTS ANY TEAM OR COACH.

CONSISTANCY IN GRADING – have the same person grade the same section for all teams.

SCORING: High score wins. Ties are broken based on quality of free-response answers

CHECKING MATH AND RANKING – Be sure to check the math and ranking for all teams so they are accurate. Scoring worksheets or computer programs may be available to help with ranking.

BREAKING TIES – Break all ties and indicate on the student answer sheets and score sheet how the tie was broken. The **DECIMAL METHOD** is a good way to indicate the winner of ties. Example: If two teams have the raw score tie of 83 for, the winner of the tie gets 83.1 while the other teams gets 83.0. If several ties are broken, you have .1 to .9 to use. This also points out scores where ties were broken.

SCORE SHEET – Fill in all information on the score sheet. Indicate how the raw scores are ranked – high score, low score or some other method. Be sure to include raw score, rank and points for each team. Explain how ties are broken.

SCORE COUNSELING

- Have your score sheet completed and signed before going to score counseling.
- Arrange student score sheets in rank order for quick checking.
- Turn in answer sheets, a copy of the test and an answer key to the Score Counselor.

Resources:

www.medlineplus.gov will usually have great pictures and diagrams that you can label for your test as well as links to other websites.

Neurological resources - Society for Neuroscience www.SFN.org.

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I hope these suggestions are helpful in organizing your tournament. Comments or new ideas are always welcome. Please send them to me at the following address.

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