



**Science Olympiad**  
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February 10, 2022

### To the Science Olympiad Community:

As we enter qualifying tournament season, and see a return to more traditional Science Olympiad experiences, I want to reemphasize Science Olympiad's commitment to providing a positive experience for students, teachers, families, [volunteers](#) and officials. As our [Code of Ethics](#) states:

*The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship. Everyone is expected to display courtesy and respect.*

Through our Student, Coach, Parent and Event Supervisor [Pledges](#) a clear standard of behavior is set for, and followed by, the 250,000 students per year in our Grade 6-12 competition as well as the adult coaches, parents, mentors, and volunteers who support them.

Let's face it – Science Olympiad is a competition, and people want to win. But when disputes arise, we have procedures in place to allow a team's Head Coach to challenge an event result – appeals, arbitrations, scoring waiting periods – which provide ample space to provide a counterpoint. Once results are final, however, we expect you to accept the results of competition, and celebrate everyone's success. Teamwork, cooperation and sportsmanship are as important to the Science Olympiad experience as science achievement.

Unfortunately, I've noticed a change in how people treat each other this past year or two, and it's a trend that I want to call out – and end. We should all be working together to ensure the safety and well-being of our competitors and volunteers. Science Olympiad is never the place to exercise your frustrations. There are no excuses for abusing a fellow competitor, an event supervisor or a tournament official. Raising your voice, bullying or harassing in person or online, or engaging in intimidation are all offenses of the Science Olympiad Code of Ethics. In the Code, we state possible consequences for such behaviors:

*Failure by a participant, coach, or guest to abide by these codes, accepted safety procedures, or rules...may result in an assessment of penalty points, or in rare cases, disqualification by the tournament director from the event, the tournament, or future tournaments.*

While rarely applied, sanctions including suspensions from participation are fully within the capacity of our tournament directors, state directors and national officials. Please remember your actions can and will have an effect on your team.

Let's work together in a cooperative spirit and have a great 2022 season.

Regards,

Jennifer Kopach  
CEO  
Science Olympiad

