

2026 DISEASE DETECTIVES – OVERVIEW

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DISCLAIMER - This presentation was prepared using draft rules. There may be some changes in the final copy of the rules. The rules which will be in your Coaches Manual and Student Manuals will be the official rules.

BE SURE TO CHECK THE 2026 EVENT RULES for EVENT PARAMETERS and TOPICS FOR EACH COMPETITION LEVEL

EVENT FORMAT:

- Disease Detectives has a 3 part competition-with each part being about 1/3.
PART1 – BACKGROUND AND SURVEILLANCE
PART 2- OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION
PART 3-PATTERNS, CONTROL AND PREVENTION
- Format and material of the Division B and C event is similar except that the level of reasoning and math skills should be consistent with the grade level.
- Rules designate some topics for Division C only and/or National only
- Differences between the two levels should be reflected in both the type of questions asked and the scoring rubrics.
- **Be sure to check the event parameters in the rules for the resources allowed.**
- Format and material of the Division B and C event is similar except that the level of reasoning and math skills should be consistent with the grade level.
- Differences between the two levels should be reflected in both the type of questions asked and the scoring rubrics.

TRAINING MATERIALS:

- **Training Power Point** presents an overview of material in the training handout
- **Overview Handout** – explains Format updates and rotation topics
- **3 Training Handout** – one for each section of the competition
- **Practice Activities** – to help learn the processes of outbreak investigation and analysis
- **Sample Tournament** with sample problems with key
- **Event Supervisor Guide** has event preparation tips, setup needs and scoring tips
- **Internet Resource & Training Materials** are available on the Science Olympiad website at www.soinc.org under Event Information.
- A **Biology-Earth Science**, a **Disease Detectives** as well as the **Division B and Division C Test Packets** are available from SO store at www.soinc.org

ON-LINE TEXTBOOKS

[Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health Practice, Third Edition An Introduction to Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics](#)