



## **Science Olympiad Statement on Safety**

In an effort to provide our participating students high-quality, standards-aligned academic challenges, Science Olympiad designs a variety of tasks to be accomplished. In some cases, these are hands-on activities or explorations that require the participating students to use scientific equipment or hand tools as well as interact with chemical, mineral, microbial, biological, or physical samples. These items are selected to give the participating students an opportunity to increase their knowledge of and skills in science while allowing them to explore the real world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers. All participants should take proper precautions to create a safe environment whether that be at a workshop, practice, or tournament.

In all instances, Science Olympiad encourages our tournament directors, event supervisors, coaches, participants, and parents to follow science practices that allow all program participants to learn, prepare, and compete safely. To that end, Science Olympiad encourages anyone who participates in, or is associated with, our program to follow the safety programs and guidelines established by their school, university, or institution. See the [Policies](#) section of the Science Olympiad website for the proper use of Lasers, Eye Protection and Building Tools.

In some cases, Science Olympiad events suggest the use of common household items (e.g., latex balloons or gloves) or food items (e.g., peanuts) that may contain potential allergens. Just like in a school situation, it is the responsibility of the student or volunteer to alert his or her coach to potential allergies so that he or she can communicate with Tournament Organizers to verify if such items may be present.

For Students with Disabilities, please follow the steps we have already laid out in the guidelines [here](#) for students with a school-based IEP or 504 plan.

For more information, you can check out any of these resources:

- National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has also [developed guidelines](#) around safety along with a [Safety Portal](#) where individuals can find up-to-date information on safety issues
- A [guidebook](#) produced in 2014 by the California Department of Education on practical and comprehensive safety resources
- The Lab Safety Institute provides a [variety of free resources](#) as well as offers courses for those interesting in enhancing their knowledge of safety practices and safety issues

If you have specific questions about safety and Science Olympiad we recommend that you contact your team's coach to start the conversation. If necessary, your coach will know who within the organization to contact if you need additional information. If you have questions, use the contact [Science Olympiad form](#) on our [website](#).