

March 5, 2020

Dear Science Olympiad State Directors and Tournament Directors:

Science Olympiad is writing to provide guidance on two possible scenarios regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in relation to upcoming 2020 Regional and State Science Olympiad tournaments. This situation changes from day to day; below is our current guidance:

**Scenario 1) In the event the campus, university or school hosting the event advises the State Science Olympiad Director or Tournament Director to cancel a Science Olympiad Tournament:**

*Science Olympiad respects the host entity's judgment and supports the decision to cancel the tournament. While we know there will be disappointment among students, coaches, supervisors and parents after all the hard work that has been put into their season, we need to put health and safety first. We encourage teams to prepare for next year; our state leaders will focus on planning events and generating excitement for the upcoming season. The idea of hosting virtual tournaments has come up; however, Science Olympiad's Commercial General Liability insurance does not cover virtual tournaments. Due to the nature of coronavirus (COVID-19) precautions on social distancing and community spread, rescheduling is an unlikely option.*

**Scenario 2) In the event the Science Olympiad State Director or State Leadership feels it is necessary to cancel a Science Olympiad tournament based on guidance from local or state health departments, or based on students, supervisors, coaches and/or parents not participating due to concerns about coronavirus (COVID-19):**

*Science Olympiad respects the State Director's/State Leadership's judgment and supports the decision to cancel the tournament. While we know there will be disappointment among students, coaches, supervisors and parents after all the hard work that has been put into their season, we need to put health and safety first. We encourage teams to prepare for next year; our state leaders will focus on planning events and generating excitement for the upcoming season. The idea of hosting virtual tournaments has come up; however, Science Olympiad's Commercial General Liability insurance does not cover virtual tournaments. Due to the nature of coronavirus (COVID-19) precautions on social distancing and community spread, rescheduling is an unlikely option.*

Please notify us of any tournament cancellations that might be happening. How these scenarios affect the decision to move forward with the 2020 Science Olympiad National Tournament is still under review. We are in constant communication with our hosts at North Carolina State University. The health and safety of all involved in the National Tournament is our first priority, and we will continue to monitor how the scenarios above evolve over the coming days and weeks. We will share information as it becomes available.

Thank you,

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