

Hello Coaches!

We hope you are all doing well in these unusual times.

Welcome coaches, parents, and students!

We know you have questions and concerns, so here's what answers we have thus far:

The board of Region 8 is committed to making sure students have an opportunity to participate in a Regional tournament so that teams from our area can qualify for the State tournament (in whatever form that may take)

The format that the Region 8 tournament takes will depend on some parameters that are still up in the air. The suggested options put forth by the National board can be viewed here: <https://www.soinc.org/play/tournaments>. This page has a flowchart (https://www.soinc.org/sites/default/files/uploaded_files/Flowchart_Planner_2021_Science_Olympiad.pdf) intended to help teams, regions, and states make the best decision for their tournament.

We think a safe bet at the moment might be to try and plan for a Satellite Tournament. We are hoping Thurston High School will host some limited number of in-person events on Saturday March 20th, even if it is only building and lab events. If fewer events with fewer student occur in person, with each team spending only a very limited amount of time in the building, we can better provide the social distancing and safety measures to protect the health of volunteers and participants. In this case, test events would be provided via an on-line platform (hopefully a uniform platform to be used by the state) so that students pairs could get together safely to compete remotely at a specifically scheduled time. How this option will unfold depends on

- The number of schools who actually plan to have a team
- Our ability to create a secure on-line testing option for knowledge-based events
- The availability of a site for building or lab events to occur in person

A Google form is being sent to the coaches to ask you about your team's expected level of participation for the upcoming year. PLEASE fill this out and return it as soon as you can to help us move forward with our planning. If you did not receive this form via e-mail, you can find a link to it here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCWtQCMKgs4flhZoDTdzpEEdzNsG57-ZaWn1hn-DiRE9S_QA/viewform

Thank you in advance for your patience, cooperation, and understanding as we strive to provide the best possible experience we can for Science Olympiad this year!

The Region 8 board