

Hello, Region 8 SO Coaches,

**Region 8 is unfortunately cancelling the Science Olympiad Regional Tournament planned for March 28<sup>th</sup> at Thurston High School.** National and State Tournaments have both been cancelled. Thurston High School has cancelled large gatherings which could promote germ spread, so with no location to host the tournament, we cannot proceed. This has not been an easy decision, nor was it lightly made. As of yesterday, we were still hopeful we could keep the tournament on schedule. This recommendation from the national level helped make the decision for us:

*“The Science Olympiad National Executive Board has recommended that all Science Olympiad Division B and C qualifying tournaments on a forward-going basis be cancelled and will support any state’s decision to halt the 2019-2020 season. We do realize that different parts of the country are experiencing the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation disproportionately, but in this instance, we feel that supporting each other and showing solidarity to those students who are affected is important. Health and safety come first.”*

**We will hold over fees paid for this year's Region 8 registration until next year** – so teams who are currently registered would be paid for next year. We have already spent some of this tournament on schedule. We have already spent some money buying medals and trophies for this year’s event, **so we cannot do a mass refund of fees.** We do still have money to do some refunds if any school/team really requires it – just contact our treasurer, [Chris Burtka at cburtka@gmail.com](mailto:cburtka@gmail.com). The state will be making their decision on next Monday how to handle state/national fees submitted to them.

**This year’s rule book will “be replayed” next year,** so investments your team has made in books, supplies, equipment, binders, cheat sheets, and coaching will still be able to be used next year. Devices that your team has worked hard to build will still be acceptable for use next year.

Your school will need to make decisions about 9<sup>th</sup> graders participating in Div B tournaments next year to finish out events they started learning as 8<sup>th</sup> graders this year. National rules limits 5 ninth graders to any Div B team of 15 students, but ultimately this is a decision for the school to make. Regions cannot impose a decision on the Div B schools – that decision must come from the head coach and/or principal. If your school permits them on the team, our regional should accept them to compete. We will review rules over the summer to confirm that this would be the case in the State or National tournament.