

Update on Region 8 Science Olympiad

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who filled out the survey so far to let us know where things stand for your team this year. If you have not yet filled out the survey, it is posted on our website so you can fill it out as soon as you have information to share with us (We know that there are still teams waiting on decisions from their schools about the fate of extracurriculars).

That being said, let me digress to point out that if teams could go ahead and get registered (no fees for Region 8 this year!) at the Regional and State level, that gives us the feedback we need to know teams still want a tournament, and helps us gauge the size of the tournament to start planning for. The registration form is being sent out with this update, and will also remain posted on our website for your convenience.

So the real focus of today's update is to talk about information. The more we have the better we can plan, so we're certain that the more information YOU have as coaches, the better prepared you will be to lead your teams.

So what new information do we have since last time? According to our survey results and informal contacts as well, we understand that some schools will be unable to have teams this year, while other are permitted teams, but are not allowed access to their school buildings, some not at all, others not in the afternoons or weekends for practicing.

IF YOU CANNOT HAVE A TEAM THIS YEAR: Given these circumstances, we want to remind teams that cannot meet this year to encourage students to try out the My SO option found on the National SO page (<https://www.soinc.org/myso>) It's an individual participation program that happens on-line, with videos, challenges, lectures and information, plus a chance to compete for status. Let's keep those curious minds engaged!

IF YOU CAN HAVE A TEAM: For the handful of teams that can go forward this year, **we fully expect to run Region 8 as a mini SO tournament.** What this means for you, is that as soon as your team is ready to get underway, they can begin practicing core knowledge events! Additionally, we know we have the ability to adapt some of the lab events into "dry labs" that provide data for analysis, so you can get prepared for those as well.

Events to expect for Region 8:

https://www.soinc.org/sites/default/files/uploaded_files/2021_MiniEvents_090820.pdf

For Division B - Eligible Events for mini SO include: Anatomy & Physiology (Skeletal, Muscular, Integumentary) Disease Detectives, Heredity, Ornithology, Water Quality (*Test Only*) (Marine & Estuary), Dynamic Planet (Oceanography), Fossils, Meteorology (Severe Storms), Road Scholar, Reach for the Stars, Circuit Lab (*Test Only*) Density Lab (*Test Only*) Machines (*Test Only*) Food Science (*Test Only*), Game On, Crime Busters (*Dry Lab Only*) and we hope to provide Experimental Design as a dry lab only event as well. Additionally, Digital Structures (Rules Forthcoming) would replace Boomilever and Write It CAD It (Rules Forthcoming) would replace Write it Do it.

For Division C - Eligible Events for mini SO include: Anatomy & Physiology (Skeletal, Muscular, Integumentary) Disease Detectives, Designer Genes, Ornithology, Water Quality (*Test Only*) (Marine & Estuary), Dynamic Planet (Oceanography), Fossils, Astronomy, GeoLogic Mapping, Circuit Lab (*Test Only*), Sounds of Music (*Test Only*), Machines (*Test Only*), Chem Lab (Test Only) (Acid/Base Chem. & Aqueous Sol), Forensics (Dry Lab Only), Protein Modeling (Test Only), Codebusters, and we hope to provide Experimental Design as a dry lab only event as well. Additionally, Digital Structures (Rules Forthcoming) would replace Boomilever and Write It CAD It (Rules Forthcoming) would replace Write it Do it.

Parameters for a mini SO tournament:

1. Students will take the tests at home, where they must sign on to the designated platform at a specific time, where they will get up to 50 minutes to answer questions.
2. Each student will need their own computer and access to the internet for the test.
3. Tests will likely occur over a three-day span, such as March 16th through 18th with test times in the afternoons, such as 3:30-4:20 and 4:30-5:20.
4. Teams will be notified remotely of results, likely on Saturday March 20th.
5. We hope to provide a few practice tests several weeks in advance to make sure everyone can access the platform correctly.

The above parameters should be feasible for all schools that can have a team. The requirements to put together a Satellite tournament, or a “split” tournament with in-person build events, would be too prohibitive for many teams, since Satellite events must take place in the team’s school building with staff to proctor the tests. Should schools begin a return to “normal” in the start of 2021, we will certainly try to revisit this possibility.

Thank you for your understanding and continued commitment to Science!! Continue to check the website (and your e-mail inbox) for further updates as the season begins to take shape.

The Region 8 board

9/22/2020