



Exploring the World of Science

New York State Science Olympiad, Inc.
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Arbitration & Appeals:

In order to ensure fair, orderly, safe, and efficient tournaments, New York State Science Olympiad, Inc.'s ("NYSSO") Board of Directors (the "Board") maintains the following policy regarding arbitration and appeals at Invitational, Regional, and State Tournaments:

- 1) Only the designated head coach may request an appeal. Appeal requests will not be accepted from anyone other than the designated head coach.
- 2) The Event Supervisor will tell the student event participants if a ruling is being made against them or their device at the time the student event participants are participating in the event (e.g., a penalty for a construction or a rule violation). Student event participants are encouraged to ask questions so they completely understand the ruling.
- 3) If the student event participants have reason to believe that there is cause for an appeal, then the student event participants need to speak with their designated head coach as soon as possible. If the designated head coach wishes to pursue an appeal, then he may do so by using the Arbitration Appeal Form provided either in the Coaches Packet or at the tournament site headquarters. The appeal must be filed within one hour of the end of the session in which the student event participants participated in the event, or in case of a Friday night event, by 8:00am on Saturday. If possible, the student event participants should accompany the designated head coach when the designated head coach speaks with the Event Supervisor in order to discuss the issue(s) raised.
- 4) If the event is a building event, **before leaving the event area**, the student event participants must respectfully inform the Event Supervisor that they intend to discuss a possible appeal with their designated head coach and ask to leave their device with the Event Supervisor.
- 5) The designated head coach must first attempt to resolve the dispute directly with the Event Supervisor. If the designated head coach remains genuinely dissatisfied with the results after meeting with the Event Supervisor, then the designated head coach may present a written Arbitration Appeal Form to the Arbitration Committee.
- 6) The designated head coach must fully complete and sign the Arbitration Appeal Form prior to submitting it to the Arbitration Committee. Using the form, the designated head coach must:
 - a) Identify the specific rule, clarification, or procedure that is believed to have been misinterpreted or misapplied, including the specific page number and section from the rules manual (or the date of the clarification);

- b) Describe how the rule or procedure was not followed; and
 - c) Obtain the Event Supervisor's signature. The Event Supervisor may not be interrupted while the event is being judged.
- 7) If the Event Supervisor is otherwise engaged, the designated head coach should simply request the Event Supervisor initial in the designated space on the Arbitration Appeal Form to signal his acknowledgment of the appeal. This constitutes an acknowledgement, but not necessarily an acceptance of the designated head coach's issue. The designated head coach can then present the Arbitration Appeal Form to the Arbitration Committee.
- 8) The Arbitration Committee will communicate with the designated head coach and resolve the appeal before event scoring is finalized. A member of the Arbitration Committee will inform the designated head coach once the ruling is made.

All team coaches are to discuss this policy with all student event participants, as well as with all other adults and all other non-student event participants. A signature from the designated head coach of each team acknowledging this policy, its consequences, and the responsibility to disseminate this information will be required at the time of the team's registration for the tournament.

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be directed to the President of NYSSO's Board of Directors and the State Director.

<p>Submitted, Reviewed, and Approved by NYSSO BOD Dated: Saturday, September 4, 2021</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>/s/ John J. Beauregard</i></u> John J. Beauregard, Secretary NYSSO Board of Directors</p>
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