



Exploring the World of Science

New York State Science Olympiad, Inc.
984 Leeds Drive
North Bellmore, New York 11710-1027
www.newyorkscioly.org

Never Alone Policy:

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 the Never Alone Policy at Invitational, Regional, and State Tournaments:

- 1) NYSSO utilizes several hundred volunteers to assist with all tournament responsibilities for Invitational, Regional, and State Tournaments held throughout New York State in schools and on college campuses.
- 2) To accomplish all of the needed tasks, related services, and support activities associated with hosting the tournament, volunteers will be solicited from within the host schools student, faculty, and staff population, as well as the nearby businesses, a large population of alumni, and other community volunteers.
- 3) In addition, volunteers will be sought from the family members and friends of tournament attendees, as well as the general population.
- 4) Student event participants come from the elementary, middle, and high school populations with ages of student event participants generally ranging up through the age of 18 and will almost exclusively be minors.
- 5) Students will need to move freely and safely around the tournament site, as will volunteers. As such, these groups will interact in group and individual settings throughout the course of the day.
- 6) Since tournament facilities are primarily on open campuses, the general public has unrestricted access to the campus and common areas. As such, security and safety are key considerations for both students and volunteers during all tournaments.
- 7) To ensure that students are safe during their time at the host tournament facility, the following practices will be in effect at all times:
 - a) All volunteers, regardless of whether they are college faculty, staff, or students, or are members of the general public at large, will need to sign in prior to being allowed to serve in their volunteer capacity;
 - b) All student event participants will have a participation wristband and will be required to wear this wristband at all times throughout the tournament;

- c) All volunteers will have a nametag with identifying credentials and will be required to wear their credentials at all times throughout the tournament;
 - d) **Students will at no time be placed in a situation where they are in a one-on-one situation with any volunteers;** and
 - e) All volunteers will maintain a minimum **two-person rule** for all their interactions with individual students. This requirement is satisfied if the interaction occurs in an open venue event in which the volunteer and the individual student(s) are observable by other volunteers and the public.
- 8) This policy and all its articles are effective immediately and will continue throughout the entire tournament season.

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.

Submitted, Reviewed, and Approved by NYSSO BOD Dated: Saturday, September 4, 2021	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>/s/ John J. Beauregard</i></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">John J. Beauregard, Secretary NYSSO Board of Directors</p>
--	--