

## WSO TEAM PROBATION POLICY:

### For Schools Identified from WSO/Regional Board as being on Probationary Status

See [WSO Team Conduct Policy](#) for infractions that will put schools at risk for probation.

#### Purpose:

The goal of probation is to help schools develop appropriate and sporting behavior from competitors, coaches, and parents or other guests of the school to allow continued participation in Science Olympiad. There are no differences in consequences for misbehavior by any one of individuals/groups associated with a team (with exception of divisional separation between B & C divisions from the same school – each will be considered separately).

Appropriate behavior from *everyone* at a tournament includes:

1. Respecting tournament staff, event supervisors, and other volunteers, *especially* when bringing up a possible issue.
2. Respecting other competitors and their belongings.
3. Knowing and following event rules and required safety equipment and procedures.
4. School spectators (anyone associated with a school) should not talk to nor signal to their competitors and for open events, must remain in designated areas.

WSO realizes that coaching staff and student participation among teams competing for the same school (program) are flexible. **Therefore, sanctions/warning/probation resulting from one team need to be applied to the entire program (school), and cannot be avoided by changing head coach, removing students or parents.** It is beyond WSO or individual tournaments' means to enforce sanctions against individuals/teams; again resulting in sanctions/probation against the school (program).

Divisions are always treated separately; meaning that if a school has both B & C division teams, if a B division team has infractions resulting in probationary status, the Division C team/s will not be sanctioned.

#### Definitions:

DQ = Disqualification (based on a team not abiding by event rules).

EDQ = Ethical Disqualification – this is a WSO-specific DQ that results from schools/teams violating [WSO Team Conduct Policy](#) which – minimally – adds 5 penalty points onto the team's event score. Considering the WSO Team Probation Policy, DQ & EDQ scores will impact school (program) probationary status.

“Program” – as used in this policy – refers to the school program. So that “School” and “Program” may be used interchangeably, referring to all teams competing for that school/division.

“Sanctions” refers to restrictions on a school resulting from warning/probationary status.

“Unranking” means that probationary teams that have DQs/EDQs in a tournament (particularly a regional or state tournament) will be subject to lower ranking (e.g., ranked after all other competing teams) for that tournament.

#### Summary for Schools with DQ/EDQ Infractions (Annual Warning and Probationary Status)

1. Annual Warning (AW): Schools that receive a single EDQ or more than one DQ at a tournament are put on **Annual Warning** with WSO which is official notification that future adverse behavior will have consequences.

Annual Warnings last for one year. Schools that have no DQ/EDQs in the year following Annual Warning are officially off AW status and resume full membership entitlements in the subsequent competition year.

2. Schools on AW that receive one EDQ in that same competition year automatically go on **probation** and will be unranked at that tournament.
3. Schools on AW with any DQ/EDQ behaviors in the following competition year will be put on **probation**, where they are restricted to two teams for two years.
4. While on **probation**, any EDQ during those two years will have the immediate consequence of extending probation for an additional year. Depending on the severity &/or number of EDQs during probation – upon approval by the WSO board – will have the consequence of disqualifying the school from WSO tournaments for at least 5 years. Any DQ during probation will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the WSO board for consequence.

NOTE: NOT registering in the year following AW or Probationary status does not eliminate sanctions – they will carry forward in entirety to the next year that the school registers.

### **Probationary Status/Restrictions/Sanctions**

1. **Sanctions (probationary restrictions) are between the school and the WSO board – which may first be initiated by the regional board. Tournament Directors are NOT able to comment on nor correspond with coaches regarding probationary status.**
  - a. Tournament directors (including invitationals) will be made aware of WSO teams on AW or probation prior to tournament day. If final tournament scoring identifies an AW or Probation team has a DQ or EDQ, the tournament/regional or WSO board will apply appropriate sanctions as laid out in this policy. At this point, no sanctions will be placed on the entire school. However, as stated above – going into the following registration/tournament year, WSO has no way of limiting restrictions to individuals associated with a team and, therefore, the school will incur restrictions placing the program on AW or probation.
  - b. Since tournament directors often do not have complete information with initial scoring to unrank teams nor provide current probationary status, AW/Probationary schools may need to connect with the WSO State Director following the tournament for confirmation of post-tournament status. As with WSO policy for tournament scoring, official results need to be finalized by 5PM Thursday following the tournament and posted to the WSO web site by Friday following the tournament. For any AW/Probation team, the State Director will provide team/school status prior to WSO release of official results to identify how the team or school may be impacted.
  - c. The State Director will track all behavior issues and DQ/EDQs and make relevant information available to tournament directors. This includes tracking which teams (and possibly schools) were unranked and may not compete in future tournaments during that competition year.
  - d. It is up to coaches to inform their students, parents, and guests of sanctions and possible future consequences. When there are multiple teams from one school, the coach must also notify other school coaches of probationary status.
2. Team restrictions once placed on AW/Probation during current season:
  - a. During the same season a team is placed on AW, WSO will not sanction other teams from the school in that same year. In all WSO/regional board votes, coaches on the relevant board for that region/division may not vote.
  - b. Teams placed on AW or probation following a regional tournament may NOT advance to the next level of competition in that year (State &/or Nationals.).

