**WSO TEAM CONDUCT POLICY –**

**GENERAL RULES, CODE OF ETHICS, SPIRIT OF COMPETITION, COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship. Everyone is expected to display courtesy and respect toward tournament personnel and other teams (see Science Olympiad Pledges below). Teams are expected to make an honest effort to follow the rules and spirit of the event (not interpret the rules so as to provide an unfair advantage or dispute validity of rules). Failure by a participant, coach, parent, or team guest to abide by these codes of conduct, accepted safety procedures, or rules below, may result in an assessment of penalty points or, in some cases, disqualification of the team – either from the event, the tournament, or future tournaments.

The following items will be adhered to by teams registered in Washington and enforced by each tournament. Signatures on the WSO Roster-Ethics form indicates acceptance of this code of conduct. Infractions may result in disqualification from an event, tournament, or future WSO tournaments.

1. Actions and items (e.g., tools, notes, resources, supplies, electronics, etc.) are permitted, unless they are explicitly excluded in the rules, are unsafe, or violate the spirit of the event.
2. While competing in an event, students may not leave without the event supervisor's approval and must not receive any external assistance. All electronic devices capable of external communication (including cell phones) must be turned off – unless expressly permitted in the event rules – and placed in a designated location, if requested by the event supervisor.
3. Students, coaches and other adults associated with a team are responsible for ensuring that any applicable school, Science Olympiad, or WSO policy, law, or regulation is adhered to. All Science Olympiad content (e.g., policies, requirements, clarifications, FAQs, etc. on soinc.org web site) must be treated as if it were included in the rules manual.
4. All pre-built devices presented for judging must be constructed, impounded, and operated by one or more of the 15 current team members unless stated otherwise in the rules. If a device has been removed from the event area, appeals related to that device will not be considered.
5. Only the identified team coach of record (head coach) may initiate official feedback with an Event Supervisor or tournament personnel. Only head coaches may file an arbitration. Only the head coach may interact with the arbitrators. Decision of the arbitrators is final.
6. Feedback/interaction regarding event parameters or judging from parents or team guests with Event Supervisors, arbitrators or tournament personnel may be grounds for team disqualification from an event, the tournament, or future tournaments. Coaches are responsible for notifying students and parents of this rule.
7. Assigned team rooms will be utilized. Teams may NOT situate themselves in a non-assigned space. This is for security reasons as well as to be able to contact team personnel, as needed.

**[See page 2 for Science Olympiad Pledges]**

**Science Olympiad Pledges**

**Student Pledge**

I pledge to put forth my best effort in the Science Olympiad tournament and to uphold the principles of honest competition. In my events, I will compete with integrity, respect, and sportsmanship towards my fellow competitors. I will display courtesy towards event supervisors and tournament personnel. My actions will exemplify the proud spirit of my school, team, community, and state.

**Coach Pledge**

I pledge to encourage honesty within my team and show respect for tournament personnel, my fellow coaches, and other team’s members. I will abide by and respect the decisions of event supervisors, arbitrators, and tournament personnel. I will do my best to ensure parents and other team guests are aware of the WSO Team Conduct Policy. I want my efforts to bring honor to my team, community, and school.

**Team Parent/Other Adult/Guest Pledge**

I pledge to be an example for my children (and other team members) by:

* respecting the rules of Science Olympiad,
* encouraging excellence in preparation and investigation,
* supporting independence in design and production of all competition devices,
* adhering to WSO policies,\*
* and respecting the decisions of event supervisors, arbitrators, and tournament personnel.

My example will promote the spirit of cooperation within and among all participating teams.

\* (see <http://washingtonscienceolympiad.com/policies/17_wso_policies.doc>)