



Exploring the World of Science  
New York State Science Olympiad, Inc.  
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March 8, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL:**

Regional Site Coordinators  
Team Coaches  
State Event Supervisors

**Re: New York State Science Olympiad  
Notifications for the Upcoming and Remaining Tournament Season**

To the Friends and Members of the New York State Science Olympiad:

Over the past few days I have spoken with many School District Administrators, Principals, Regional Site Coordinators, Team Coaches, Venue Liaisons, and my fellow Board Members regarding New York State Science Olympiad's ("NYSSO") plans for the remainder of the Tournament Season within the context of the coronavirus.

My delay in providing to you a definitive, authoritative, and official response was motivated by my desire to ensure both the health and safety of your students, as well as to allow their participation in a Tournament that they have spent the past few months admirably preparing for. In other words, I waited until I had enough information to provide to you an accurate, reasonable, and comprehensive status report.

As of the date of this letter, all Regional Tournaments for Division C (High School) have been completed. All Regional Tournaments for Division B (Middle School) have been completed – save for three: Lower Hudson, Mid Hudson (March 14), and Mid Western (March 14).

At this point, the Board and I are issuing the following important Tournament Notifications:

**1) State Tournament, Division C at Le Moyne College on March 13-14, 2020:**

I received word from Le Moyne College's COVID-19 Task Force on Friday, March 6, 2020, notifying me that the College is no longer in a position to host the State Tournament. The Board and I fully understand and respect this decision made by the Le Moyne College Task Force. Since this is a definitive decision by Le Moyne and, coupled with the growing concern for the health and welfare of all the students impacted, both at Le Moyne College and Science Olympiad, the 2020 New York State Science Olympiad State Tournament, Division C is hereby **canceled**.

**2) State Tournament, Division B at East Syracuse-Minoa H.S. on April 17-18, 2020:**

Given reports that the coronavirus situation will get worse before it gets better and in the interests of your students health and welfare, and for your planning purposes, the 2020 New York State Science Olympiad State Tournament, Division B is hereby **canceled**. I have been in contact with the Venue Liaison of East Syracuse-Minoa High School informing him of this decision.

**3) National Tournament at North Carolina State University on May 15-16, 2020:**

I have spoken with the Science Olympiad National Office informing them that in the interests of safety, fairness, and for planning purposes, New York State Science Olympiad was canceling both its State Tournaments and, consequently, would **not** be sending Teams to the 2020 National Tournament.

**4) Lower Hudson, Mid Hudson, and Mid Western Division B Tournaments:**

a) Lower Hudson: Based on the decision by local officials in the area, this Tournament will be **postponed indefinitely**. I have spoken with the Regional Site Coordinator for Lower Hudson and we both agreed – very regretfully – on this decision. Please be aware that, given the fact that many school officials that I have spoken with have voiced concerns regarding teams of students from different parts of New York State coming into another area of the State, Science Olympiad Teams from Lower Hudson **will not be permitted** to attend and participate in the either the Mid Hudson or the Mid Western Regional Tournaments.

b) Mid Hudson & Mid Western: I have spoken to the Regional Site Coordinators for these Regions. As of today, these two Regional Tournaments will **take place as scheduled**. However, should School Districts and/or parents wish to refrain from sending their students and children to these Regional Tournaments, the Board and I fully understand and respect this decision. Please be mindful, however, that the sight venues for Mid Hudson and Mid Western are well within their rights to cancel these Regional Tournaments. Should this occur, these Regional Tournaments, too, will be **postponed indefinitely**. The Regional Site Coordinators will be in contact with those schools within their Region to provide updates as to the status of these Tournaments as the Tournament date approaches.

**5) State Tournament Registration Payment Returns:**

Since both the State Tournaments have been canceled and the State Tournament Qualifying Team registration payments have not yet been deposited, kindly ask your respective School District Business Offices to contact our Treasurer, Maha Hrbac ([mhrbac@newyorkscioly.org](mailto:mhrbac@newyorkscioly.org)), to discuss State Tournament Qualifying Team registration payment returns.

While I thoroughly understand the pain and hardship that this will cause the students, parents, and coaches, this is the best and most appropriate decision that can be made in light of the current circumstances relating to the coronavirus situation. I am fully cognizant of how hard the students have worked over the past months, the sacrifices and dedication they have exhibited,

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and the countless hours of study they have undergone in preparation. All things considered, this makes these decisions all the more hard and painful. Please know that these decisions were in absolutely no way made lightly or in a cavalier manner. On the contrary, the Board and I have agonized over these decisions for the last two days.

Personally, as a former student participant, myself, I know this news is absolutely, unequivocally, undeniably, crushing. I also know that travel plans have been made, other opportunities missed, and hopes have been raised and only then to be dashed. When I volunteered to become a member of the Board and, later, appointed State Director, I never – ever – thought that I would have to make a decision like this. In a situation like this my heart is yelling at me not to do this, but the science and the circumstances are telling me something completely different. I know that everyone has made, at times, dear sacrifices for their students and for Science Olympiad, I earnestly and desperately implore you all to assist me in making just one more: that is, for your patience and understanding.

Again, I am very, very sorry to have to share this news with you. I wish you all the very best and sincerely hope to see all of you back next year. Please share this letter with the appropriate school administrators and parents. As always, should you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

*/s/ John J. Beauregard*

John J. Beauregard

JJB:jjb

cc: NYSSO BOD (*via electronic mail*)