

NCOM STATE TOURNAMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY April 5, 2008

Tournament officials wish to emphasize the following rules and procedures that will be in effect for the State Tournament. We realize this is a lot of information. However, **it is important that you read these rules carefully and follow the procedures outlined.** We hope the information will be helpful in planning your day and making the competition go as smoothly as possible for your team. We appreciate your cooperation.

Teams and coaches must use the Problem, the Odyssey of the Mind *School Program Guide* and the General Competition Rules, Problem Procedures (in Fall National OotM Newsletter), and Problem Clarifications to solve the problem and prepare for competition. The Problem Procedures and General Clarifications are posted at www.odysseyofthemind.com. Links are also available on the NCOM State Tournament Page.

Please keep the ECU campus clean and follow these requests:

Make sure that you clean up after yourselves and discard trash in containers. Do not leave trash in the parking lots, hallways, and prop or check-in areas.

All props, costumes, sets MUST be taken home with you. ECU cannot dispose of your problem solutions.

No food or drinks in competition sites. Consume food and drinks only in designated areas. Clean up and use appropriate trash containers for your discards.

Do not use walls, curtains, furnishings etc. in performances, slide props on the floors, or in any way cause damage to the facilities. **Judges will stop any activity that they believe to be dangerous or will cause damage to the floors or facility.** Please note that teams will be liable for any damage and have financial responsibility for damage repair.

Please do not block hallways and traffic areas with your props.

After the last team has performed at the Long Term competition sites, we request that audience members help us put the room back in order.

Tournament judges and officials have been instructed to give Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalties to teams that do not clean up or cause damage to the campus facilities.

Practicing good sportsmanship is an important part of the OotM experience. Applaud all teams' accomplishments and efforts. No judge/official should be confronted by a coach, parent or spectator. Coaches, please share the TEAM BEHAVIOR CONTRACT that follows with your team, parents and any others who will be accompanying your team. An Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty may be assessed to a team at any time including post tournament due to the unacceptable behavior of a coach, team member, parent, or supporter. In keeping with the spirit of OotM, we need to keep in mind that only a few teams will emerge as state winners. **ALL TEAMS PARTICIPATING ARE WINNERS** because of the effort and skill it takes to put together a problem solution for competition.

Load/UnLoad Zones and Team Competition Site Entrances [See ECU Parking E-Map]
Parking is not available on campus. Each competition site has a 10 minute Load/Unload zone. Do not leave unattended vehicles in Load/Unload Zones.

Mendenhall: Team Entrance is Southwest Entrance next to Multi-Purpose Room. DO NOT use outside doors that enter in to Multi-Purpose Room competition site.

Bate: Load/Unload from Wright Circle. NO parking on Founders Dr. Team Entrance is Main Lobby Entrance on Founders Dr.

Fletcher: Load Unload and Team Entrance on East Side

LONG TERM PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES:

Problem Clarifications

General Problem Clarifications PUBLISHED on the Odyssey of the Mind web site dated on or before March 31 will be in effect for the State Tournament. Any published general clarifications after that date will not be in effect. If your team has a specific clarification, it must be presented to the Staging Area Judge prior to your team's long term performance. Clarifications supercede your Long Term problem's rules and they take precedence over the General Competition Rules published in the *Program Guide*.

Teams should report to the check-in area 45 minutes to preferably one hour prior to the Long Term time. Please build in plenty of extra time to park, load/unload, take shuttle busses, locate your site and make competition preparations. Remove your props from the check-in/prop room promptly after the conclusion of your performance.

Outside Assistance

Coaches, as the competition day approaches and pressure mounts, please pay special attention to outside assistance. Students take pride in their own work, even if it is not as finished or polished as adults would like. Help well-meaning adults understand the immense value in granting students the freedom to "do it their own way, by themselves." Please remind your team and supporters that fixing hair, make-up, costumes, props etc. by any person who is not a team member is Outside Assistance.

Balsa Structures must be checked and weighed-in one hour before the scheduled long term time. Two members of the structure team, including the structure builder, should report with the structure to the problem site weigh-in table. If time permits the team may make corrections of any infractions. Safety goggles must be worn by team members placing weights within the safety zone. It is determined that the crusher board weighs 10 pounds. Caution: Team members must be very careful moving around the tester and weights.

Doors will be closed at most competition sites during the performances. No one can be admitted once a team begins to perform. Please wait quietly outside until the performance concludes.

Competition Conditions

Teams should be prepared to perform on any floor or surface. Floors are carpeted in Mendenhall Student Center *Wonderful Muses* Rooms 15 and 244. Teams should remember that conditions at the competition site (such as team or audience noise) may affect the quality of their problem solutions and should prepare accordingly.

Video and Flash Cameras

Video and flash cameras may be used during competition ONLY if: 1.) They are used with the permission of the team. 2.) They are used without extra lights. 3.) They do not disturb the

competition in any way. 4.) They always stay outside the competition boundaries. Videotapes will not be used to make judging decisions. There may be TV and press coverage at performance sites.

At the conclusion of the performance, the judging team will talk with all team members and examine the team's solutions. **Coaches and parents helping the team remove their props/ scenery and cleaning up the performance site must not enter the judging area until the Head Judge gives permission.**

Tournament Judges and Officials

We have full, trained and experienced judging teams who are looking forward to evaluating and enjoying your team's creative solutions. Our judges are caring and fair. However, if any problem or concern is brought to our attention, tournament officials will make every effort to address the issue and remedy the situation as long as we are within the rules of the program and all teams are treated fairly and consistently. **Every judge, official, and coach, no matter what happens, should be treated with respect and civility. Unsportsmanlike conduct exhibited by coaches, team members, parents or supporters may result in a penalty to the team. This penalty may be assessed at any time and post tournament. Coaches, please be sure that your parents and supporters understand that only you may speak on behalf of the team to the Head Judge and/or Problem Captain. No one should have any communication with the other members of the judging team.** A coach may only discuss issues about his/her own team and may not question judges regarding another team's solution. Outside assistance, irregularities, and penalties may only be reported by tournament officials and judges.

Please Get Your Long Term Raw Score Sheet Promptly

Coaches, it must be a priority to pick up your raw Long Term Score Sheet. You should remain at the competition site and pick up your score sheet as soon as it is compiled and within ½ hour of the conclusion of your team's performance unless one of the following applies to your team: 1.) If you are one of the first three teams at the competition site, your Long Term score will be held until after the first break. 2.) If your Spontaneous time is close to the conclusion of your Long Term, please leave word with the Head Judge that you are going to Spontaneous competition and return to the Long Term site as soon as your team is finished at Spontaneous. **Except for these situations, if you do not pick up your score sheet within ½ hour, the Head Judge will release the Long Term score to the score room, the scores will become official, and you will forfeit your right to an appeal.** The Long Term score sheet will not be available until post tournament. (The Averaged Master Style and the raw Spontaneous scores will be available following the Awards Ceremony.)

Tribunal Procedures

The Head Judge will note the time the coach received the Long Term Score Sheet. The coach should go back to the Head Judge within 30 minutes after receiving the raw Long Term Score to discuss any additional concerns or questions. The Head Judge and/or Problem Captain will explain and try to resolve the issue with you. If the issue cannot be resolved and the coach feels a rule has not been interpreted correctly or feels that correct procedures were not followed, the coach may request a tribunal. Coaches will need to complete a **Problem Intervention Form** before a tribunal is formally convened. Please note: **The tribunal will only convene when a rule interpretation or procedure question is involved. Judgment calls and subjective decisions of the judges are final and not subject to tribunal review.** The tribunal's decision is final.

SPONTANEOUS COMPETITION:

ALL team members should report to the Spontaneous Check-in 15 minutes before you are scheduled to compete. FIVE team members MUST participate in Spontaneous. If you know you will not have 5 team members at the competition, please notify Carolyn Braly, bralyc@coastalnet.com. Brewster Building is off limits to everyone except for teams and coaches. Your parents/supporters should meet the team after Spontaneous at another designated place on campus.

You will be given your team's Spontaneous Card at Spontaneous Check-in. (The Spontaneous Card will not be in your Registration Packet. Do not go to the Spontaneous site to get your card until it is time for the team to check-in for Spontaneous competition). **If your Long Term site is running behind schedule or you do not have enough time between Spontaneous and Long Term, please do not panic!** Since we need to keep on schedule at the Long Term sites, the coach should let Spontaneous know of your situation. The team should check-in as soon as possible. We will work you in to the Spontaneous schedule.

Every team in your problem/division will have the same spontaneous problem and it is very likely that teams in another long term problem may have the same spontaneous problem. TEAMS MUST NOT REVEAL OR DISCUSS THE NATURE OF THE SPONTANEOUS PROBLEM. Your team can be heavily penalized or disqualified for this violation. Since other states with later tournaments will be using the same problems, do not publicly talk about the problem, especially over the internet.

TEAM COMPETITION CHECK-LIST:

Use this check-list to be sure you bring everything required for competition. KEEP AN EXTRA COPY OF ALL PAPERWORK for your team records.

- _____ **Three COMPLETED copies of the Style Form.**
- _____ Completed **Materials Value Form.**
- _____ Completed **Outside Assistance Form.** Any Outside Assistance must be explained on the form. You must list any team members who dropped from your roster.
- _____ The reply to any **Team-Specific Problem Clarifications** your team submitted to OotM Headquarters. (It is not necessary to provide the clarifications published for all teams in your problem.)
- _____ Three copies of **Problem Required List.**
- _____ All props, costumes, sets, etc. necessary to complete the problem solutions, except those items listed in the problem under "Tournament Director Will Provide."
- _____ Any items listed in the problem, clarifications, or *Program Guide* General Rules that the team must provide.
- _____ Membership card (or photocopy) to verify your membership name and number in case there is a question.

Recommended items include:

- _____ A "Fix-it" Box for last minute repairs - with string, wire, duct tape, scissors, glue or glue gun, needle and thread, extra batteries, etc.
- _____ Coaches' Survival Kit!
- _____ Please use the Team Contract on the following page as a learning tool to explain behavior expectations to your team, parents, and supporters. We recommend that you have your team members and parents sign and return the form to you. **This form is for team use only and not to be turned in to the tournament.**

North Carolina Odyssey of the Mind Team Contract

“Odyssey of the Mind teaches values such as teamwork, integrity, and respect for others.” [Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide]

In order to have a successful Odyssey of the Mind experience, tournament competition rules must be agreed to by team members and their families and team coaches. Those rules are found in the *Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide* and regional tournament competition regulations.

Students, coaches, and guests at the tournament are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalties will be assessed at any time during or after the tournament for these unacceptable behaviors:

- Parents, team members or spectators are not to confront any official concerning tournament competition rulings. Only coaches may discuss rulings with the head judge or problem captain.

- No coach, parent, team member, or spectator may complain about another team.

By signing this contract, team members, their families and their coaches agree to exhibit good sportsmanship, respect for others, and compliance with the rules and regulations of the Odyssey of the Mind competitions.

Team Membership Name: _____ Date: _____

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Team Member: _____
Signature

Parent: _____
Signature

Coach: _____
Signature

Coach: _____