

2018 - 2019 Solon High School Science Olympiad Membership Agreement

Solon High School Science Olympiad (SHSSO) is a nationally known and highly competitive academic team whose members are passionate about science, technology, engineering, and math. Having won four national tournaments in its history – including three consecutive wins in 2011, 2012, and 2013 – SHSSO has a longstanding tradition of excellence.

Every year starts with all team members competing individually in alumni-authored trial tests and a mechanical check. These experiences offer members the opportunity to explore their event options in a non-tournament setting. They also allow new members to understand the different events and gain experience.

As a competitive team, SHSSO then participates in a series of weekend invitational tournaments. Typically, we compete at 8-10 invitational tournaments between December and March. The Co-Captains, in consultation with our coaches, create schedules for these tournaments that allow members to compete in their various events and work with different partners.

At the end of the invitational season, if the SHSSO team has qualified for the Ohio State Tournament, the Co-Captains and coaches must narrow our team down to 15 students who will represent SHSSO at the State Tournament. If the team qualifies for the National Tournament by placing first or second at the state tournament, these same students will represent SHSSO at the national level.

Not all members of SHSSO participate out of a desire to compete at the State and National level. We welcome these members to be a part of our team and explore their interests during the invitational season. However, to maintain SHSSO's tradition of excellence, all members are expected to meet certain standards of conduct and responsibilities. This membership agreement outlines those standards and commitments.

By signing this agreement, I affirm my understanding and commitment to the following principles of conduct:

- I will act as an honorable representative of the SHSSO team and Solon High School by complying in good faith with all competition, team, and school rules.
- Science Olympiad is a team competition. I will put the needs of the SHSSO team above my own; "One team, one dream."
- I will commit to doing my personal best in each of my individual events while embodying a team spirit of dedication, class, and friendly competition.
- I will communicate regularly, proactively, and promptly with my event partners, team officers, and coaches.

- I will respect and abide by the decisions of my officers and coaches. If I disagree, I may express my concerns privately and respectfully to those officers or coaches and expect my concerns to be evaluated fairly.

Additionally, by signing, I acknowledge that I freely accept the following responsibilities:

- I will communicate to the Co-Captains at least two weeks in advance if I am unable to attend a tournament. If an unforeseen circumstance arises after this deadline, I will immediately contact the Head Coach to discuss the conflict. I understand that, barring extenuating circumstances such as serious personal illness or family emergency (e.g. funeral), I will be responsible for paying the invitational fee regardless of my attendance.
- I will consistently attend team meetings and practices. If I am unable to attend, I will review any minutes or announcements released from the meeting. If I have another commitment that consistently conflicts with team meetings or practices, I will speak with a coach in advance to discuss this conflict and create a plan.
- I will invest significant time and effort into preparing for each of my events, working with my event partner(s) as appropriate. I understand that there is a minimum expected time commitment of 10 hours per week during the invitational season (October – March). This includes individual studying, mechanical building and calibration, event meetings, team practices, and coaching SMS competitors in topics that directly relate to my events.
- I will attend the Solon High School Science Olympiad Invitational on February 2, 2019. If I am unable to attend, I will promptly contact the Head Coach to discuss the conflict.

Furthermore, by signing, I acknowledge that no SHSSO team member is guaranteed a competitor slot at the State or National Tournaments. I acknowledge that the Co-Captains and coaches will use the following criteria to determine membership of these teams, if SHSSO qualifies:

- Performance and consistency in my individual events during trial tests and invitational competitions, as compared to other team members
- The schedule and inherent event conflicts for both the Ohio State Tournament and National Tournament
- Attendance at team meetings, practices, and invitational tournaments
- Remaining in good academic standing in my regular coursework and financial standing with SHSSO by paying all requisite fees and dues

Name (printed)

Signature

Date