

## GOING TO COMPETITION

- There will be NO FRIDAY night preview of any regional competition site. Each site will be available for the teams to preview immediately after the Opening Ceremonies until 10 minutes prior to the first scheduled competition at each site.

## **Structure Problem**

- Please watch our website [www.georgiaodyssey.org](http://www.georgiaodyssey.org) or Facebook page for any announcements regarding weigh-in, measuring and storing of the structures.

## **Required Forms**

- The coach must provide a completed Media Release form at Tournament Check In.
- Your team must provide the following forms to the Staging Judge:
  - Style Form (4 copies)
  - Cost Form
  - Outside Assistance Form – note the Outside Assistance forms from the regional tournament will be saved and compared to the Outside Assistance forms at State.
  - Team-Specific Problem Form (4 copies)
  - Any Team Clarifications that your team received from the National Headquarters
  - Any copyright letters and/or proof of public domain for non-original material
  - Keep copies of all forms in case your team advances to the next level of competition, **these forms will not be returned.**

## **Sportsmanship**

- We can destroy the value of Odyssey of the Mind if we view “winning” as the only criterion for success. Coaches as well as spectators must set an example. Teams/Parents/Supporters who display rude, disrespectful, inappropriate behavior will be penalized. Please inform Teams/Parents/Supporters that their actions and words can also cost the team penalty points. Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct can be found in the Program Handbook.

## **Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide**

- Coaches, please re-read the program guide very carefully with your team prior to the competition. The problems cannot be solved without reference to the guide.

## Volunteers

- Each team MUST provide a volunteer in addition to the required judge. Volunteer assignments are typically 1 ½ - 2 hours. A link for volunteer signup will be emailed to the head coach two weeks before the competition. Teams who do not sign up for a volunteer slot before the Thursday preceding the competition will select from the remaining slots on the morning of the competition at Check In. There is a \$100 penalty fee for not having a volunteer.

## Schedule Conflict

- If you are coaching more than one team and find a conflict in schedule, (e.g., Long-Term for one team conflicts with Spontaneous for another), give the Long-Term problem your priority. Remember, only the team is allowed in the Spontaneous room, so ask a parent or assistant coach to take the team to the designated Spontaneous area.

## Awards

- **Eddleman Memorial Award** – Since 1990, at our State Finals tournaments, we have honored one adult who has made a significant contribution to GA Odyssey of the Mind with the Eddleman Memorial Award. This award memorializes Mr. Sherrill Eddleman, a deceased GA Odyssey of the Mind coach, who will always be remembered for his unselfish efforts in helping Gwinnett County youth. Nominations of individuals may be made by a one-page (8 ½ by 11 inches) letter of nomination to Lisa Hackney, 1216 W. Lakeshore Drive, Dalton, GA 30720 or [lisa@georgiaodyssey.org](mailto:lisa@georgiaodyssey.org) no later than March 10, 2025.
- **Coaches Hall of Fame** – At State Finals, we will recognize coaches who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Team members may submit the name of a coach to be honored. Nominations are limited to one typewritten page and will be accepted until March 10, 2025. Nominations should be sent to Lisa Hackney, 1216 W. Lakeshore Dr., Dalton, GA 30720 or [lisa@georgiaodyssey.org](mailto:lisa@georgiaodyssey.org)

## Membership Sign

- The membership sign to be used for the Long Term problem must contain the name that you received from Odyssey of the Mind headquarters including any Team A or Team B if assigned. Limitations on the sign may be found in the Program Guide.

## Event Schedule

- All events will begin on time, if humanly possible. Teams must report on time to the designated areas for all events. Failure to report on time (without unforeseen circumstances) may result in exclusion from that part of the tournament and no points will be given to the team for that event.

## Tournament Day

### Check-In

- Check-in for all teams will be from 12:45 – 1:00 pm for the South GA Tournament and from 7:00 – 7:45 am for the North GA Tournament at a table that will be set up near the entrance of the facility. Please see the Event Schedule for your tournament time and location. **Only 1 coach needs to come to Check-In** to pick up the team packet.
- Please have all children/teams wait at a predetermined location away from the check-in area.
- Remember to **bring a completed Media Release Form for your team. Your team will not be allowed to check-in without a completed Media Release Form.** After Check-in, please advance to the Checkerboard table to double check the required paperwork. Additional forms will be available on the table.
- **Copy Machine** – will be available in Tournament Headquarters. Copies are 25 cents each.
- **Division III/Division IV** students are encouraged to sign-up for Alumni at the Check-in area.
- **Please note a change to the Cost Form** if this is not your first year. This year teams will be asked to list exempt items, including trash items, on the Cost Form with a cost of \$0.

### Opening Ceremonies

- This year **we will not have a Banner Parade at the South Georgia Tournament.** Each team will be announced and **asked to stand** and while they are standing **the coach will introduce themselves and the team members.**
- **We will have a Banner Parade at the North Georgia Tournament.** Each team will need a banner. This banner may be made by team members, coaches, parents, and or supporters and will be judged. Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony. Teams, coaches, and supporters will sit together as a group in the high school gym with their banners. Teams will be told when to line up for their place in the parade and then will return to their seats in the gym. We hope that this procedure will reduce crowding as teams line up and allow teams to view the parade. **This same procedure will be followed at State Finals for teams from both the South and the North Tournaments.**
- We would love for you to post a picture or two of your team on our Georgia Odyssey of the Mind Facebook page.

### **Problem Sites**

- To keep the flow of traffic to a minimum, and not distract performers, please instruct your students to enter and leave problem sites between presentations. Doors will be closed, and doorkeepers will keep people from entering or leaving while teams perform. Plan your day carefully so that your team does not end up in a problem site when they are due to be in another area.
- Teams should be quiet and non-disruptive when they are near a Long Term performance area or the Spontaneous competition area. As teams walk around the tournament, they should not touch other team's props/scenery/costumes/etc. Rowdy behavior and/or damage to another team's items may result in a penalty for your team.

### **Props, Costumes & Equipment**

- We suggest that teams leave all equipment in their vehicles until they are ready to set up in the staging area and should be promptly reloaded after their Long Term competition. There will be NO rooms available for prop storage. Props and other items should not be left unattended in the halls, cafeteria, or other areas of the school.
- Find a place near the Long Term performance area where team members can change into their costumes and do their hair/makeup/etc. Pick up after yourselves – leave the school and bathrooms clean. **(Remember, team members must do their own hair and makeup)** Please don't clog the hallways.
- Teams will have 3 minutes after their performance to clear the staging area of all props and supplies. Coaches and supporters may help the team clear the area after the judges' signal that it is time to start clearing the area.

### **Outside Assistance**

- A friendly reminder to all teams, only team members may participate in all phases of the competition. This includes pinning costumes, combing hair, applying makeup, and fixing anything that breaks. This is noted in the Program Guide. Parents and coaches may assist in carrying props to the Staging Area and back to vehicles. One coach may remain with the team in the Staging Area until directed to the seats provided for coaches.

### **Flash Photography**

- Flash photography is allowed at all program sites unless a specific request is made to the Staging Area judge before the competition. Videotaping requires permission from the team. Please silence all electronic devices during performances.

### **Spontaneous**

- One team member and coach will check the team in the spontaneous area at least 15 minutes before their scheduled spontaneous time. Team members will be escorted to

the competition room by a runner/judge. No one is allowed anywhere near the spontaneous competition rooms.

- No cell phones will be allowed in the spontaneous problem rooms. Plan for their storage prior to the team going into the competition room.
- Remind your team not to discuss the spontaneous problem with ANYONE, including coaches and parents until AFTER World Finals. All teams competing in the same problem and division have the same spontaneous problem. Your team can be penalized for discussing the spontaneous problem outside of the spontaneous room.
- Teams will NOT receive a Spontaneous Score Sheet. Spontaneous scores will be posted on the Georgia Odyssey of the Mind website.

### **Judges**

- It is important to always be respectful to the judges. Listen carefully to their instructions and to their questions as the judges want all teams to do their best. The competition is the team's opportunity to showcase their hard work, and the judges want to give them the chance. Remember, the judges are volunteers who work extremely hard to be knowledgeable about the problems and fair to all team members.

### **Getting scores**

#### **Long Term and Style**

- Coaches will be told how long to wait before returning to the Long Term area to pick up their scores. The Problem Captain or Head Judge will only release scores to the team coach. Coaches should present their "score picker upper" card to receive scores. Coaches have 30 minutes after receiving their scores to return to the judge with any questions.
- Teams will receive a copy of their Style scores when they receive their Long Term scores. **Overall scores, including Long Term, Style, and Spontaneous will be posted on the Georgia Odyssey of the Mind website within 24 hours of the final Long Term team performance.**

### **Spectators**

- Be prompt for the team's Long Term performance. No one will be allowed to enter the venue once the team begins performing.

### **Cafeteria for North Georgia**

- Food concessions will be available in the cafeteria. Food may be eaten **only** in the designated areas. Please support the concession stand as it supports area OM teams. **Cleaning up is each group's responsibility.** We do not expect the school to clean up lunch after groups.

- Please **DO NOT “HOG”** tables. Remember, other people need to eat too. If you want a specific gathering place for your team, we suggest you find a quiet spot in a hallway.
- Our tournaments are tobacco-free environments.

### **South Georgia Concessions**

- Concessions may not be available for the South Georgia Tournament.

### **Floor Surfaces**

- South Georgia – Problems 1 will have tile flooring. Problem 3 and 5 will have commercial carpet flooring.
- North Georgia – Problems 1, 2, and 4 will be in gyms. Problem 3 and Problem 5 Division I will have an LVT surface and Problem 5 Divisions II and III will be on a stage.

### **Free Time**

- When your team is not performing encourage them to watch other performances, eat, relax, visit the souvenir stand, or play. Please stay together as a group. Your students are your responsibility all day. **The same manners, decorum, and sportsmanship required during their competition are expected all day.**

### **Odyssey Bingo at North and State and Dragon Quest at All Tournaments**

- We offer Prize Bingo at the North and State Tournaments only. Details will vary by site and information will be announced at Opening Ceremonies.
- Dragon Quest will be offered at all tournaments. Details will be announced at the Opening Ceremonies.

### **Lost and Found**

- Turn in items found during the tournament to the Souvenir area located in the cafeteria.

### **Participation Certificates**

- Please email Lisa if you would like participation certificates, [lisa@georgiaodyssey.org](mailto:lisa@georgiaodyssey.org).

### **Advancement Formula**

- This year our formula for advancement to the State Finals will be based on the number of teams in each problem and division who compete at the regional event.
  - 1 - 4 teams – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams advance
  - 5 - 8 teams – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place advance
  - 9 or more – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> place advance

- Advancement from State Finals to World Finals will be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each problem and division. **World Finals will be May 21-24, 2025 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.**
- The deadline for State Finals payment of \$150 is March 14, 2024. Payments can be made on our website [www.georgiaodyssey.org](http://www.georgiaodyssey.org) Please know that we are a non-profit fully volunteer organization, and all tournament fees are necessary to offer tournaments.

#### **Awards Ceremony**

- All teams are encouraged to attend the Awards Ceremony for their tournament and stay until the end to support all OMers.

**We have been pleased to offer Odyssey of the Mind events for Georgia students for over 40 years. We have a national reputation for running smooth child-centered tournaments and hope that your OMERS feel honored and valued even during these difficult pandemic years. We look forward to another year of enthusiasm and responsible participation as we celebrate creative problem solving. Good luck to all!!!**