

Palo Alto High School Science Olympiad Club Constitution

I. **Name:** Palo Alto High School Science Olympiad Club (Paly SciOly)

II. **Purpose:**

- To train the members of the Palo Alto High School Science Olympiad teams to compete in and to organize participation in the Regional, State, and National levels of Science Olympiad
- To train the members of the Palo Alto High School Science Bowl teams to compete in and to organize participation in the Regional and National levels of Science Bowl

III. **Membership:**

- Members must attend meetings mandated by the club officers, both during school and outside of school.
- Members must study throughout the school year until the conclusion of competition participation.
- Teams for Science Olympiad will be selected by the three SciOly Presidents based on factors including but not limited to: past performance in the competition, devotion to Paly SciOly, performance on testing procedures, expertise in specific areas of scientific inquiry, event preferences, and record of past math and science classes and experience.
- Teams for Science Bowl will be selected by the two SciOly Event Presidents based on factors including but not limited to: past performance in the competition, devotion to Paly SciOly, performance on testing procedures if applicable, expertise in specific areas of scientific inquiry, competitive ability, and academic excellence.

IV. **Voting Procedure:**

- All votes provided for in this constitution shall be carried out by private ballot, unless this right is waived by the officers and the majority of the members of Paly SciOly.
- Absentee ballots will not be permitted except by consent of the advisors and officers for a valid excuse. Absentee ballots must be explicit and should be given directly from the voter to an advisor or officer.
- Voting procedures must be deemed reasonable by the advisors.

V. **Officers:**

- **Two Event Presidents** are responsible for the Science Olympiad competition study events and the Science Bowl competition. They are responsible for assigning members to the Science Olympiad and Science Bowl teams according to the aforementioned criteria.

They are responsible for handling the relevant registration, funding, and transportation issues for the Science Olympiad and Science Bowl competitions.

- **One Engineering President** is responsible for the Science Olympiad competition engineering events. He or she is responsible for assigning members to the Science Olympiad team according to the aforementioned criteria. He or she is responsible for handling the relevant registration, funding, and transportation issues for the engineering aspects of the Science Olympiad competition.
- **All three presidents** collaborate and assist each other in performing duties. All presidents organize regular meetings and study sessions for the club. All presidents represent the club and perform leadership duties, including but not limited to public relations, finance management, and administrative operations.

VI. Selection of Officers, Qualifications, and Term of Office:

- Candidates must be named at least one week prior to the election date. Candidates must have participated in Science Olympiad the past year and receive approval from an advisor to run for a position. Candidates are encouraged to prepare and deliver speeches for the meeting prior to voting.
- Ballots will be counted by the previous officeholder and an advisor. The winner receives the greatest number of votes for a particular office. In the case of a tie, there will be a tiebreaking vote the following week for the contested office.
- No person may run for multiple positions without the express written approval from an advisor and 2 of the 3 current Paly SciOly Presidents. If a candidate is elected to multiple positions, he or she must resign all but one within 3 days, notifying an advisor and former Presidents. The candidate receiving the second-most votes for the resigned positions will be instated.
- All officers will hold their offices for one year, beginning two weeks after their inauguration and ending with the entry of newly elected officers for the following academic year, excluding unusual circumstances detailed below.

VII. Succession under Unusual Circumstances/Officer Removal:

- If a President cannot fulfill his or her duties due to illness, physical disability, or absence, the other two Presidents will carry out the duties of the first President for the absence duration.
- If a President is permanently unable to fulfill his or her duties, an emergency election will be held at a date determined by the other two Presidents and an advisor. An emergency election may demand more rapid procedures than the aforementioned election format.

Procedures will be determined by the two remaining Presidents and verified by an advisor.

- A President may be removed from office if both other Presidents, an advisor, and two thirds of the voting members deem him or her unable to fulfill his or her duties.

VIII. Activities of the Group:

- **Science Olympiad competition.** The members of the Science Olympiad teams will compete in the Regional level of Science Olympiad. If applicable, teams will compete at the State and/or National levels.
- **Science Bowl competition.** The members of the Science Bowl teams will compete in the Regional level of Science Bowl. If applicable, teams will compete at the National level.
- **Club and study meetings.** Presidents are responsible for the organization of club and study meetings both during and out of school. Club meeting activities include but are not limited to: information sessions for members, registration procedures, updates regarding the status of event preparation, and election notifications. Study meeting activities include but are not limited to: large group study sessions involving research and preparation for events in general, small group study sessions for event-focused members to collaborate, pair or trio study sessions for event-specific teams, and mock competitions. Presidents may deem certain meetings mandatory, giving one week's notice.
- **Additional activities.** The Presidents and advisors may agree to introduce additional activities to the club, including new competitions. Additional activities must be deemed by all Presidents and an advisor as reasonable expenses of money, time, and effort for club members, officers, and advisors. Presidents and advisors will determine leadership processes for the introduction year of the activity. If kept, the activity and its related leadership will be included in the constitution of the following year.

IX. Finances and Expenses:

- Initial funds for Paly SciOly will consist of remaining money from the preceding year. Additional funds may be raised by methods including but not limited to: fundraising events, sponsorships, club dues, and donations.
- Paly SciOly will spend money on registration, materials, transportation, food, and other costs relating to Science Olympiad and Science Bowl competitions.

X. Elastic Clause:

- The Presidents of Paly SciOly shall have the power to make all rules they deem appropriate for the functioning of the club. All executive

decisions regarding Science Olympiad require the approval of all three Presidents and an advisor. All executive decisions regarding Science Bowl require the approval of both Event Presidents and an advisor.

XI. Amendments and Ratification:

- Amendments to the Constitution may originate by advisor recommendation, officer suggestion, or member petition. Amendments shall be validated with a two-thirds vote of the voting members of Paly SciOly.
- This and any subsequent constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of Paly SciOly. The constitution becomes immediately effective following ratification.

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