

Regional and State Scientific Paper and Oral Competition Rules

In general each paper should have only a single author and presenter. In certain cases with agreement of the Regional and State Director, presentations of team projects may be allowed. But the judging rules are the same as for single presenters. The time constraints are: 10 minutes to present and 5 minutes for questions. The written manuscript and oral presentation carry equal weight in the overall scoring. Fewer than three entries in one division may cancel the competition for that division. Although the project need not be entered in a science fair, the paper MUST reflect actual science experimentation by the student, or theoretical work of the student in an area of pure mathematics or physics, or the development of a scientific computer model. Papers that are simply literary 'search' papers are not acceptable for competition.

Rules for the Paper Competition

1. Submit an entry form with either an electronic copy or three copies of the manuscript (one for each judge) along with a \$15 entry fee to the Regional Director. Check with your Regional Director as most Regions are now accepting electronic copies. The first and second place winners of Regional Competitions will be asked to submit three more paper copies or an electronic copy of the manuscript for judges at the State Competition. Before submitting your paper to State Competition be sure to review suggestions by judges for ways to improve your paper and make changes accordingly. A copy of your entry form also must be sent to the State Director. There is no further entry fee for the State Competition.
2. All papers must include a Cover page with the following information: title of the paper, name of student, grade, school name, school address, and name and address of the teacher or sponsor who endorses the project. This page is separate from the Title page of the paper.
3. For the necessary components and formatting requirements of your scientific paper see *NMJAS Technical Paper Guidelines* which can be accessed from the NMJAS web page at <http://www.nmas.org/junior-academy-of-science.html> by scrolling down to the bottom of the page.
4. A student may secure help in structuring, proofreading, and typing the paper. However; all assistance must be noted in the acknowledgments.

Rules for the Oral Competition

1. If there are more than 12 papers submitted in any division, the judges will select the top 10 to 12 entries for the oral competition from the written papers. Students will receive notice as soon as possible if judges eliminate their papers from the oral competition.
2. Presentation time limits will be strictly enforced. Each presenter has 10 minutes maximum for the presentation and 5 minutes after the presentation for judges' questions.

Although other presenters, parents, teachers, and friends may attend the session, only the judges may ask questions.

3. It is strongly recommended that PowerPoint be used for the oral presentations. If the presentation includes a video, the video file must be saved along with the PowerPoint file on CD or flash drive. The State Competition requires that the PowerPoint files be sent to the State Director several days in advance of the competition because they must be pre-loaded on permanently installed computers. NO AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS, such as hand-held demonstrations, chemicals, etc., are allowed.
4. Copies of the current Judging Forms are available on the NMJAS web site so there should be no confusion between judges' expectations and presenters' preparations.
5. Each Regional Director is responsible for ensuring that no more than two entries for each division, junior and senior, are sent to the State Competition.
6. The order of oral presentations will be determined by random drawing. Failure to appear for the competition on time and ready to present may result in disqualification.
7. In order to promote professional courtesy and to minimize distractions, all presenters are strongly requested to stay for the entire paper session. You should arrive at least 15 minutes before the competition begins, and stay until the last paper has been presented. Coming or going during a presentation may cause you to be disqualified.

SPONSORS: It is your responsibility to see that the rules are followed. Use this sheet as a checklist so that there are no omissions or misunderstandings. Sign the title page after you have checked this list carefully. If you have questions, feel free to contact your Regional Director or the State Director. But please do so well before the date of the competition.

Rules revised: 22 January 2020