



## 2021-2022 Regional Tournaments COVID Mitigation Plan

January 30, 2022

The NJ Odyssey of the Mind State Board of Directors is committed to holding in-person Regional tournaments. We feel very strongly that it is important for teams to have the opportunity to present their solutions live. As such, we recently met to develop a COVID mitigation plan for the safety of everyone attending.

Our overall goal is to limit the number of people in the building at one time to allow for easier social distancing and adherence to state and local COVID protocols. Therefore, the following steps are being taken for all three Regional tournaments:

- (1) We are not able to accommodate spectators and are limiting teams to one (1) Coach and two (2) Assistant Coaches.** Only team members and up to three (3) adult coaches per team will be allowed into the building.
- (2) All Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be registered with their associated team in the Odyssey HQ system.** If the Coach hasn't included an assistant coach, and/or need to change them around please visit <https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/member-resources/> and log into the "Team Login" using the username/password in the team registration confirmation email. Then click "Competition Record".  
*Note: Changes may not appear immediately as they need to be approved by your Regional Director. If you do not get confirmation of the change in a few days, please contact your RD.*
- (3) All Judges, Volunteers, and Tournament Staff must self-attest to their COVID status at Officials Check-in the morning of the tournament.** We ask that anyone experiencing COVID symptoms or feeling ill please stay home. We will not penalize any teams if someone must be absent for health reasons and is able to let their Officials Coordinator know via email.
- (4) All Coaches must attest to the COVID status of the team at Team Check-in the morning of the tournament. This includes their own, all Assistant Coaches and all team members.** We ask that anyone – child or adult – experiencing COVID symptoms or feeling ill please stay home. No penalties will be assessed if any team member must stay home.
- (5) Everyone is required to be masked at all times within the building.** All teams, coaches, assistant coaches, judges, volunteers, and staff are required to be masked while inside the building and we will be assessing *Unsportsmanlike Conduct* penalties for repeated failure to properly wear a mask over their mouth and nose. Teams or Coaches will receive a penalty to their team. Judges or Volunteers will have a penalty assessed to the team they represent.



- (6) Teams will be scheduled for a specific, limited amount of time in the building.** This may vary by tournament, but the competition schedule will be set to limit the number of teams in the building at any one time. Teams will be allowed into the building approximately 30 minutes prior to their Long Term performance time to prepare/unpack their props. Teams will have Long Term scheduled first and will go to Spontaneous soon after. Teams will then be expected to leave the building almost immediately after Spontaneous. Coaches will have access to the Long Term site to pick up and review the team's scores after Spontaneous. Regional Directors will be in contact with Coaches in the coming weeks with more specific details on how this will work. Please start planning with parents and transportation to coordinate team drop off and pick up.
- (7) Awards Ceremony will be held virtually the following evening.** We will be sending Coaches details on how to access as we approach the tournaments

We understand that this will be a different tournament experience than we are used to, and that coordinating travel and drop off may be complicated. We feel very strongly that giving students the opportunity to perform live, in front of judges, is extremely important. We hope this plan will allow your teams, parents, and other supporters to understand we are committed to holding in-person tournaments safely.

Regional Directors will be in touch with Coaches over the next several weeks with more region-specific information, including the competition schedule. Please keep an eye out! **If you have any questions before then, please reach out to your Regional Director (not the host schools).**

Information on the plan for State Finals will be released following the Regional tournaments.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the NJ Odyssey of the Mind program. If you have any further questions, please reach out to your Regional Director!

**See you in a few weeks and – good luck!**

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Sarah Pankiewicz, State Tournaments Director  
Joy Stephenson, Skylands Regional Director  
Beth Nelting, Coastal Plains Regional Director  
Ariana Kerchner, Gateway Regional Director  
Trish Jamison, Coastal Plains & Skylands Officials Coordinator  
Michele Rattigan, Gateway Officials Coordinator  
and the entire NJ Odyssey of the Mind Board of Directors