



*Florida*  
*Odyssey of the Mind*  
*Association*

**2023**  
**STATE**  
**QUALIFYING**  
**PACKET**

Odyssey Team Coach Advancing to the State Tournament:

Please carefully review each page in this packet. Complete and submit the necessary forms, share information with the team and team supporters when requested, and keep this packet for reference.

Some items involve deadlines – Do not delay in reviewing this packet!

Please confirm times and locations listed in this packet at Tournament Registration and with the official Tournament Program. Congratulations on qualifying for the State Finals!



**Florida Odyssey of the Mind Association  
2023 Florida Odyssey of the Mind  
TOURNAMENT RULES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. Registration**

Registration will open up from 8:00PM - 9:00PM Friday evening and at 7:00AM Saturday morning. Teams are required to check in at the Registration table to turn in their Team Behavior Contracts, pick up their programs, coach badges, etc. There is a possibility of this opening on Friday night as well.

**2. Teams Unable to Attend**

Teams that are unable to attend the tournament for whatever reason are asked to notify their Regional Director at the earliest possible time prior to the tournament. The Regional Director will then notify the appropriate state tournament official of the team's status.

**3. Sportsmanship**

Teams and Odyssey supporters are expected to respect each other and their property. Any violations may result in unsportsmanlike penalties, expulsion from the competition and/or from all future competitions. Decisions will be determined by the official State Odyssey Tribunal and decisions will be final.

**4. Integrity of Spontaneous Problems**

It is vital that all teams maintain the integrity of the Spontaneous Problem by NOT DISCUSSING IT IN ANY WAY until after ALL tournament competition is completed. Team coaches and other Odyssey supporters are asked to help teams keep the secret by not questioning them until after competitions are finished.

**5. Outside Assistance**

NO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE WILL BE PERMITTED at any time by anyone! This includes, but is not limited to, assistance during the day of the tournament. Non-team members may assist in moving, lifting, transporting props, vehicles or other large/heavy items. Non-team members may NOT assemble, repair, apply make-up or costumes or in any other way become involved with the materials of the team's solution/performance.

If an Outside Assistance offense is observed by ANY tournament official, that official will report the offense to the head judge or Problem Captain for that team's problem. One warning will be issued. The second offense will result in an Outside Assistance penalty. Teams may NOT file reports against each other.

**6. Security**

Neither the Convention Center nor the Florida Odyssey of the Mind Association accepts responsibility for the security of props, equipment, or other items teams bring. Responsibility for the safety of such items rests solely with team members and their coach. When a team has completed its performance, team members must remove their belongings and place the items in their vehicle or waste receptacle.

**7. Supervision of Students**

Children and young people under the age of 18 must be properly supervised at all times during the tournament. Team coaches and adult supporters are expected to know where the team members are at all times and should expect appropriate behavior. Teams or supporters involving themselves in any type of disorderly conduct, including defacement of property, will be disqualified. Such a determination will be made by the State Odyssey Tribunal.

**8. Team Promptness for Performances**

Tournament officials will strive to stay on schedule throughout the day. In order for the tournament to stay on schedule and for all teams to receive the attention of the judging team that they deserve, the tournament performance schedule will be strictly followed. Teams must make every effort to be prompt for their performance times. In the event of an emergency or other verifiable extenuating circumstance, a team may be rescheduled for a later time (if this is possible). Depending on the circumstances, the team may be assessed a 25-point penalty for failing to appear at the designated performance time.

**9. Confirm Performance Times**

Due to last minute changes, it may be necessary for a team’s performance time to shift. It is important for all coaches to confirm the official/final performance time for the team by consulting the official State Tournament Program at the time of registration at the tournament.

**10. Students With Special Needs**

If a team has a member with a physical condition that tournament officials need to be aware of, the coach or designee should send written notification of the condition with the student’s name and team information to the tournament director with registration paperwork.

**11. Primary Teams at State**

Again this year, representative Primary Teams will share their solutions at the State Tournament. Primary teams are made up of students from grades K-2, and their Long-Term Problem is non- competitive. Normally Primary Teams only present their problem solutions at the Regional Tournament. However, each region within the state is invited to select one or more Primary teams at random to represent the region at the State Tournament.

**12: Problem #4 (Structure) Teams at State**

Weights are available in each division for the structure problem. The tentative breakdown of weights per division are as follows:

**ALL DIVISIONS**

- 8 – 5 lb.
- 14 – 10 lb.
- 16 – 25 lb.
- 16 – 35 lb.
- 14 – 45 lb.

**13. Tournament Officials**

All tournament officials have attended a training session and are certified. Anyone wearing an Odyssey “Official’s” T-shirt or identification badge is a tournament official and is an authority figure. All tournament officials should be accorded the respect associated with their position. Keep in mind that like team coaches, all officials are volunteers and are vital to a successful tournament.

#### **14. Tournament Workers**

Each team at the state tournament is *required* to provide a worker to volunteer at the tournament unless otherwise notified by their Regional Director or the State tournament director. If a team fails to provide a worker volunteer by the published deadlines, or if the assigned worker does not report for duty, that team may be assessed a fine and “Spirit of the Problem” penalty. The tournament director will advise the appropriate Problem Captain that the penalty has been assessed to the team. For additional clarification, refer to the page titled “Procedures for Odyssey Team Worker Volunteers” in this packet.

#### **15. Coach Bulletin Board**

In the event a tournament official or Head Judge needs to locate a particular team coach to resolve a question or discuss the team’s score, a **Coach Bulletin Board** will be in use and on display from approximately 7:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. during the tournament. The board will be located next to the Odyssey Information Table. **It is strongly recommended that all coaches check this Coach Bulletin Board several times during the tournament day.**

#### **16. Long-Term Score Pick-Up & Protest Procedure**

Following the team’s performance, the Head Judge for the Long-Term Problem will inform the coach (or designee) when the team’s Long-Term scores can be picked up. The Head Judge will review the score sheet with the coach or designee **ONLY!** The coach or designee will be identified by the ID badge he/she received at registration. The coach will sign the score sheet indicating the scores have been received. This time will be noted on the score sheet.

The coach then has thirty (30) minutes to register any protests (rule interpretation) with the head judge. No protests will be accepted after the 30-minute time period. Teams **MAY NOT** protest about other teams!

If the judges deny the protest, the coach may then appeal to the Problem Captain. Should the Problem Captain not be able to make a ruling, **ONLY** he/she will then refer the question to the official State Odyssey Tribunal, whose decision IS final. All protests must be in writing. Forms are available during the tournament from your Problem Captain.

In the event a specific team coach is needed for some type of scoring problem involving the team *after* the raw scores have been sent to the score room, the coach will receive a text message, and the team name/problem/division will be posted on the Coach Bulletin Board near the Information Table area.

#### **17. Tournament Suggestions**

Following the award ceremony, **NO** tournament official, Problem Captain or state board member will address ANY complaints or suggestions by coaches, parents, team members or other supporters. Each will be reviewed completely by the State Odyssey Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Suggestion Forms are designed to make tournament improvements, not to reverse a decision made by a tribunal or a Problem Captain.

#### **18. Creativity Fest**

OMER’s Block Party will return at the 2023 Florida Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament. Look in your tournament programs for the information and location of this event.

**19. Phone Calls to the Convention Center**

Odyssey of the Mind participants/supporters are asked NOT to place phone calls to the main operator at the Convention Center. No one is available to take messages or to page individuals. Questions should be directed to your Regional Director in advance of the tournament. Pass this information on to the parents of the team members too!

**20. Food Service**

Food service vendors will be located in and around the West concourse. The Convention Center is “cashless” and only accepts credit cards. Please plan accordingly.

**21. OMER’s Award Nominations**

Nominations from coaches or tournament supporters for the OMER’s Award MUST be submitted to the Odyssey Information Table **NO LATER THAN 3:00 p.m.** on the day of the tournament. Nominations should be made only after careful consideration. Nominations DO NOT automatically mean the award will be given. A committee of Odyssey officials will meet prior to the Awards Ceremony to determine OMER’s Awards to be presented.

**22. Clean Up and Departure**

Wherever team members and team supporters go within and outside of the Convention Center, they MUST clean up after themselves. Trash receptacles will be strategically located near performance sites for immediate clean up. When a group leaves an area, everyone should check the site for cleanliness and for any belongings left behind.

**23. Lost & Found**

Lost and Found will be located at the designated Odyssey Information Table. Items will be kept approximately *one week* after the tournament and then will be donated to charity as appropriate.

**24. Floor Damage**

In order to avoid damage to competition floor surfaces, all participants are requested to wear soft-soled shoes. All vehicles built as part of a Long-term Problem solution must be designed so as not to damage any floor surfaces at the tournament site. Any damage to the venue site caused by the team and/or team spectators, will be the responsibility of that team. (Refer to the Program Guide Rules)

**25. Final Score Pick Up**

Final scores are no longer handed out after the Awards Ceremony. The final scores will be posted to the Florida Odyssey of the Mind website and Facebook Page within 24 hours of the tournament.

**26. World Finalist Team Meeting for Coaches**

Immediately following the Awards Ceremony, a meeting will be held in a location TBA for all coaches of World Finalist teams. At least one representative from each champion team is REQUIRED to attend to receive important information about the World Finals tournament. This meeting will be open to coaches ONLY. *A separate meeting for team members and parents of teams advancing to World Finals will be held TBA. All team members and parents are encouraged to attend.*

**27. Pre-Tournament Coach Meetings**

Pre-Tournament Coach Meetings will be held at the Convention Center on Friday Evening (April 7, 2023) beginning at 7:00 PM.

**28. Pre-Tournament Judge Meetings**

We are strongly encouraging any judges to attend a Friday evening (April 7, 2023) judges meeting to go over the tournament day and ensure everyone is on the same page.