2025-26 Rickards Science Olympiad Invitational UPDATES

This page can be accessed through rsoi.org/updates and rsoi.org/announcements

Sep. 13 - Update #1 - TLDR: Released event mods (not finished), added the trial events Fermi Questions B/C, Fossils B/C, Ornithology B/C, Protein Modeling C, Brainrot B/C, Clash Royale Royale B/C, Pokemon B/C, Anything Goes B/C

Sep 23 - Update #2 - TLDR: Event mods finalized except for Hovercraft B/C, Fermi Questions B/C, and Pokemon B/C).

Oct. 20- Update #3 - TLDR: Event mods finalized. Circuit Lab B is test-only. WIDI & EXPD Materials in event mods. Pokemon Trial removed. Team #'s assigned.

Oct. 27- Update #4 - TLDR: **IMPORTANT UPDATE.** This update contains all information students and coaches need to know about the invitational.

Oct. 29- Update #5 - TLDR: Registration reminder, external submission instructions.

Oct. 31 - Update #6 -TLDR: Assign students to events asap, make sure you know the requirements of each event, don't cheat

Nov. 1 - Update #7 - Final Reminders. Updates for Brainrot Trial. Rem Sem C and Fossils B/C in process.

Nov. 1 - Update #8 - Fossils Tests published. Bungee and Hovercraft parameters set. Widi updates. Code B Fix

Nov. 2 - Update #9 - Rem Sem C published.

Nov. 3 - Update #10 - Anything Goes published.

Nov. 12 - Update #11- Make sure to check the team issues doc

Nov. 17 - Update #12 - Make sure to check the team issues doc

Nov. 22 - Update #13 - Awards Ceremony

Nov. 22 - Update #14 - Appeals

Update #14 (Nov 22)

Hello coaches,

Thank you all for participating in this year's Rickards Invitational! Your students should be able to access all their tests and you can find the preliminary results here: Division B, Division C. As many have noticed, there are a few discrepancies with certain events causing the actual results to be different from the ones shown during the awards ceremony. This was due to typos while making the awards powerpoint and issues being resolved after the event was graded and added to the awards powerpoint. As of now, the results shown on the scilympiad page are correct.

Appeals: For the teams that want to appeal their score, please fill out the appeals form here. Only coaches are permitted to submit appeals; appeals submitted by students/competitors, including captains, will not be accepted. Appeals are due **Nov. 25th** at 11:59 p.m. EST Keep in mind, our event supervisors and my team are all very busy high school and college students that have volunteered to help host this invitational, so please do not submit appeals nitpicking small things that won't end up making much of a difference.

Exam Release: Full PDF versions of tests, keys, and histograms will be released to the general public on Dec. 2nd.

Feedback Forms: We appreciate all types of feedback so we'd love for all coaches and students to fill out our feedback form.

Thanks,
Ayush Patel
RSOI Co Director

Update #13 (Nov 22)

Hello Coaches,

Finally, the awards ceremony is here. Students can also find it at rsoi.org/awards.

Due to some technical issues, the awards are now set to premiere at 8:00 PM EST with a 20-minute countdown introducing our event supervisors and other things. The actual awards will

start at around 8:20 PM EST and will end at around 9:05 PM EST. Please tell all your students to tune in. Once again, we are giving awards to the top 20 teams in Division C and the top 15 teams in Division B.

After the Awards Ceremony, we will be releasing all tests and preliminary scores on Scilympiad at around 9:10 PM EST. If there are any concerns with scoring, please check the team issues document, as any appeals will be considered and rechecked.

After the awards are finished, please continue to check the Team Issues Sheet. There are still several unresolved disqualifications and we will be double checking these in case a mistake was made for Final Awards.

Thanks,
Ayush Patel
RSOI Co Director

Update #12 (Nov 17)

Hello coaches,

As grading finishes, I want to remind you to please still check the team issues spreadsheet in case there are any problems with your team's submission (i.e. no file access or too much out of browser time). This document will also have all current disqualifications detailed. We will not be emailing each team individually about disqualifications (other than for getting anti-cheat questions right) so it is **extremely important that you check this document and email us right away if there is any kind of issue.**

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #11 (Nov 12)

Hello coaches,

The testing window has officially ended!
<mark>Important!!!!</mark>
Throughout the grading period, please still check the [team issues](#) spreadsheet in case there are any problems with your team's submission. This document will also have all current disqualifications detailed. We will not be emailing each team individually about disqualifications (other than for getting anti-cheat questions right) so it is **extremely important that you monitor this document and email us right away if there is any kind of issue.**
Awards Ceremony: The awards ceremony will premiere on Nov. 22nd at 7:45 p.m. EST. We will send out a link to the awards ceremony the day of, but you will also be able to find the video on our [YouTube page](#).
Exam Return: Immediately after the awards ceremony, your teams' tests will be returned on Scilympiad. This will include your teams' raw scores.

Appeals and Disqualifications: Scoring appeals will be done through a Google Form (link to be released later) and not through Scilympiad. Only coaches are permitted to submit appeals; appeals by students/competitors, including captains, will not be accepted.

As tests are graded and events are scored, we will also reach out to teams that may be subject to disqualification due to academic integrity or other reasons as soon as possible. Each email will contain evidence and reasoning regarding the disqualification. You may appeal your disqualification before Nov 25 11:59 EST. No appeals will be accepted after this date.

Exam Release: Full PDF versions of tests, keys, and histograms will be released to the general public on or before Dec. 2.

Feedback Forms: Firstly, we'd love for all coaches and students to fill out our [feedback form](#). We want to reflect on what went right and what went wrong.

If you have any personalized feedback that you want to provide to us directors or specific event supervisors, please reach out to us! We appreciate all types of feedback, positive or negative.

Thanks,
Rishi Aka
RSOI Director

Update #10 (Nov 3)

Hello Coaches,

We sincerely apologize for the delay, but the link for Anything Goes is now published in the event modifications document [here](#).

If you are emailing us about an issue, **please include your team number and event in the email**; it will make our lives a lot easier. Also, the event supervisors are not monitoring the ES chat, so if you have an issue, please email us and we will relay it to them.

Please make sure to frequently monitor [this](#) document for any team issues and double check that outside image/video submissions are set to anyone with the link can view.

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #9 (Nov 2)

Hello coaches,

If you haven't already, please read Update #8.

Remote Sensing C is now published. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused.
Anything Goes is set to be published later today. We encourage all team members to work on the test. The link will be in the event modifications here. Once again, I apologize for the delay.

If you are emailing us about an issue, **please include your team number and event in the email;** it will make our lives a lot easier. Also, the event supervisors are not monitoring the ES chat, so if you have an issue, please email us and we will relay it to them.

Please make sure to frequently monitor this document for any team issues and double check that outside image/video submissions are set to anyone with the link can view.

Thanks,
Rishi Aka
RSOI Director

Update #8 (Nov 1)
Hello Coaches.

I apologize for the many issues with both Division B and C events.

Here are some important Updates:

WIDI B: WIDI was configured in such a way that the Doer is unable to see the typed instructions from the writer. If they are not handwriting the instructions, we are able to provide a PDF version of the writer's typed instructions (must already be submitted in Scilympiad).

Bungee Drop: The correct drop heights and masses for Bungee Drop have been updated in Scilympiad.

Hovercraft: The correct target times for Hovercraft have been updated in Scilympiad.

Codebusters B: Points have been awarded for all atbash attempts. Both ciphers have been fixed.

Fossils B/C: The Fossils B/C tests are now published. Sincere apologies for the delay.

Remote Sensing C: The Remote Sensing C test is expected to be uploaded later today due to difficulties with test-writing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #7 (<small>Nov 1</small>)

Hello Coaches,

The Rickards Invitational has officially begun!

If you haven't already, please make sure to read [Update #4](#).

If anything happens that your team will require assistance, please email us at director@rsoi.org. We will be monitoring this email constantly and we will try to reply to all emails within 10 minutes. We will try to be up but we won't guarantee any emails will be responded to quickly after 11:00 PM ET every day.

<u>IMPORTANT UPDATES</u>

I apologize for the inconvenience. Remote Sensing C and Fossils for both divisions are having issues with test writing and formatting. We are working to have these tests published as soon as possible. Please let me know if this conflicts with any testing schedules.

Additionally, Brainrot (trial) B/C is now 35 minutes long rather than 50. Please share this information with your students.

<u>Here are some final reminders:</u>

- Make sure to monitor [this](#)document in case any of your teams has an issue (i.e. out of browser time or no file access) that will result in a disqualification if not handled.
- Please also tell your students to make sure to click outside the box periodically in order for their answers to save on Scilympiad
- Make sure your students know how to submit outside submissions and that they know their team numbers
- Build event video submissions must involve the camera zooming into the codeword on Scilympiad. We strongly encourage students to follow the script provided.
- The awards ceremony will be Nov 22nd

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #6 (<small>Oct 31</small>)

Hello coaches,

If you haven't already, please make sure to read Update #4. With just a few days until the start of the competition, here are a few things to remember.

If anything happens that your team will require assistance, please email us at director@rsoi.org. We will be monitoring this email constantly and we will try to reply to all emails within 10 minutes.

Students to teams and events: The registration deadline has passed. All teams should have their team numbers and should be able to assign students to teams and events.

This is an urgent reminder that teams must coaches must 1) Input the student roster, 2) Assign Students to teams, and 3) Assign students to events.

Go to : Coaches --> Head Coach Dashboard --> Student/Team/Event Assignment:

- Click on "Add a student" or "Import Students" to create or add to the Student Pool

- Click on "Students to Teams" to assign students to teams

- Click on "Students to Events" to assign students to events. By assigning students to events, you have signed up for their scheduled events and device events.

More details with pictures can be found on this document. Coaches can change team rosters any time before the competition starts before Nov. 1 at 8 a.m EST.

Build Events: Build events are run through video submission, recorded in one take in one attempt. An adult supervisor must be present for all recordings. Build events can be conducted at a remote location as long as an adult is supervising it. Students must **state the codeword and zoom into the codeword on Scilympiad when recording.** We **strongly encourage** students to follow the script provided to ensure no penalties are incurred. For more information, see build policy section in the event modifications above and the specific event modifications.

Trial Events: Our event supervisors worked hard to make these fun trial events, so please try to sign students up to take them. We will also allow as many alternates (excluding builds) as needed to do all the trial events. Every trial event, other than anything goes, will get medals - 15 for div B and 20 for div C

Materials coaches should get: For Write it Do it and Experimental Design, students must have access to all the materials on the event modifications to be able to successfully do these events.

Troubleshooting: Because of the time change on Sunday and the volume of tests being taken, Scilympaid can have some errors occur. Please first check the troubleshooting section of this document. It contains the most common errors students may face. Students taking the test after Nov. 3 need to make sure their timezone has correctly changed to standard time and scilympiad displays the correct timezone (EST). If none of these work, please email director@rsoi.org. This email will be monitored constantly during the day and we will promptly address any issues that may occur.

Questions: All questions should go to director@rsoi.org. We will forward the email, if requested, to the relevant event supervisor(s). Students and coaches are forbidden from directly contacting event supervisors to ask specific questions unless explicitly stated in the exam or required for outside submissions.

Outside Submissions: Some events will require outside submissions. Submission requirements are detailed in the event modifications and the Scilympiad exam. Please make sure students know their team numbers. Also, all the forms are configured to send students a copy of their responses. Students need to make sure they receive this email just in case they need to appeal in the future.

All events that require students to submit images to forms will need to have all images uploaded to their own Google Drive and submit a link we can click to view. With the number of participants, even if each participant submitted a small image, it will quickly fill up our Google Drive. Here is a video on how to add an image to your Google Drive and how to share its link. Make sure students get familiar with this process and make sure the link can be viewed by anyone with the link.

Below are the events that require outside image submissions:

Engineering CAD

Experimental Design B/C

Write it Do it

Write it do it: For Write it do it, coaches must ensure that there is no communication in any way between the two partners until both sides are finished. For **Division B, students may handwrite the instructions**, however, coaches should be the middleman transferring the writing between the students and ensuring there is no communication between the two. Also, the test needs to be open physically to let students know when the time is up.

Experimental Design: For Division C, teams must submit a picture of them physically doing the experiment.

Anything Goes: The link to the Anything Goes test will be posted at 8 AM on the event modifications.

Resource Policy: Students may have resources limited by what is defined in the rules manual. You will also find the resource policy for each event in the event modifications to avoid any confusion. Since our competition is still very early in the season, binders may be accessed online, but notesheets must be printed. **CTRL + F is NOT allowed.** It will count as out of browser.

Below are the events that require a binder and/or need to access outside links and will not track time out of browser.

Astronomy C

Circuit Lab B/C

Dynamic Planet B/C

Engineering CAD

Entomology B/C

EXPD B/C

Fossils B/C (Trial)

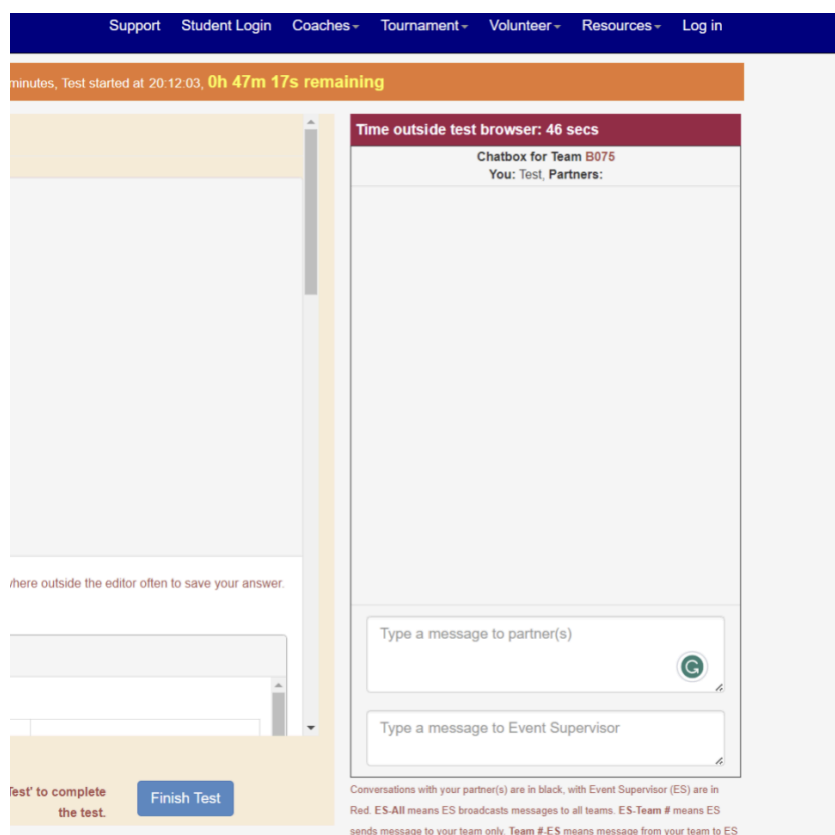Machines B/C

Meteorology

Metric Mastery

Ornithology B/C (Trial)

Remote Sensing B/C

Rocks and Minerals

Write It Do It

For all other events, we will be recording time out of browser and we will **disqualify** teams with over 30 seconds (codebusters and geoguessr will only allow 10 seconds) of time out of browser for these events unless a coach contacts me with a reason. For the tests recording time out of browser, students will be able to clearly see the time out of browser on the top right side of their screen. It will look like this:

Academic Honesty: Coaches, as well as competitors, will be responsible for the academic honesty of each competing member of the team(s). Cheating will result in disqualification from the event and a score of n+2 as the placement for the event. It is important that students know **many tests have anti-cheat questions**. We will be able to tell that you have cheated based on specific answers to specific questions.

Payments: We have already contacted those who have not yet shown proof of payment, so now, if you see your team is marked as unpaid on this scilympaid page, but you know you have paid, please let me know at director@rsoi.org.

State Registration: We have already contacted those who have not yet registered/paid for the state, so please make sure to sort that out so you can compete.

Forms: We are not requiring or accepting any forms for our tournament since we won't be disclosing any specific student information to others.

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #5 (Oct 29)

Hello coaches,

If you haven't already, please make sure to read Update #4.

External Submissions: Coaches, please make sure your students know how to upload images/videos to their google drive and set it so that anyone with the link can view. The instructions for that can be found in Update #5. If your school blocks google drive, please let us know as soon as possible.

Registration & Payment: To those that haven't registered yet, our registration will close by 11:59 PM EDT this Wednesday, Oct. 30. Please head over to our registration page and make sure you see your school and all your teams. If you have paid, make sure you see your teams are marked as paid. If there are any issues please let me know as soon as possible.

Make checks payable to the School District of Leon County. Address: 3013 Jim Lee Rd Tallahassee, Fl 32301. Envelope Title: "Rickards Science Olympiad Invitational (for Dr. Hall). Rickards Science Olympiad can be abbreviated as 'SO'.

After we have received your check or a picture of your check, your team should be marked as paid on our participating schools list.

Here are the instructions to make credit card payments. Keep in mind Efunds will automatically add a convenience fee to the total. If you are paying this way, please send a screenshot of the confirmation and send it to director@rsoi.org to be officially registered.

Assigning students to teams and events: Coaches, make sure to assign students to teams and events before the competition starts by going to the head coach dashboard and click on

"Student/Team/Event Assignment" to 1) input the student roster, 2) Assign students to teams, and 3) Assign students to events. These steps must be completed in order for students to be able to successfully access and take their tests.

More instructions for students and coaches about assigning events, taking the tests, and troubleshooting can be found on [this document](#).

Coaches can continue to change teams any time before the competition starts.

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #4 (Oct 27)

Hello coaches,

With a little under a week until our competition, we'd like to make sure all coaches are on the same page. Below contains important information about the tournament, summarizing any past tournament updates in addition to new information. Please read the email in its entirety and also send to your students. The main things students need to know about are their event modifications, and our academic honestly policy.

Our start and stop times for the events may change over the course of the week. This is for testing purposes only. **If we see any team do an event before Nov. 1, they will be disqualified.**

General Tournament Information

Tournament Format: Our tournament follows the Satellite format meaning students need to take tests together supervised by a coach. In addition, the tournament is **asynchronous** meaning teams can participate in any of the events at any time during the duration of the competition (Nov. 1-8). Moreover, teams from the same school are encouraged to take the same tests at the same time to ensure academic integrity.

Event Modifications: All event modifications can be found in the following document: [Event Modifications](#). To avoid confusion, please ask your students to read the general policies and the event modifications for their assigned events entirely. Each event modification has the resource policy to make sure no one is confused.

Build Events: Build events are run through video submission, recorded in one take in one attempt. An adult supervisor must be present for all recordings. Build events can be conducted at a remote location as long as an adult is supervising it. For more information, see build policy section in the event modifications above and the specific event modifications.

Trial Events: Your event supervisors worked hard to make these fun trial events, so please try to sign students up to take them. We will also allow as many alternates as needed to do all the trial events. Every trial event, other than anything goes, will get medals - 15 for div B and 20 for div C

Tournament Timeline: The tournament timeline can be found [here](#). Any modifications to this timeline will be emailed to coaches.

Team Numbers: If your school has signed up teams for the competition, team numbers should already be assigned and coaches should be able to assign students to teams and events. Please make sure you know your team numbers so I can identify which team to help if something happens during your tests.

Resource Policy: Students may have resources limited by what is defined in the rules manual. You will also find the resource policy for each event in the event modifications to avoid any confusion. Since our competition is still very early in the season, binders may be accessed online, but notesheets must be printed.

Below are the events that require a binder and/or need to access outside links and will not track time out of browser time.

Astronomy C

Circuit Lab B/C

Dynamic Planet B/C

Entomology B/C

EXPD B/C

Fossils B/C (Trial)

Machines B/C

Meteorology

Metric Mastery
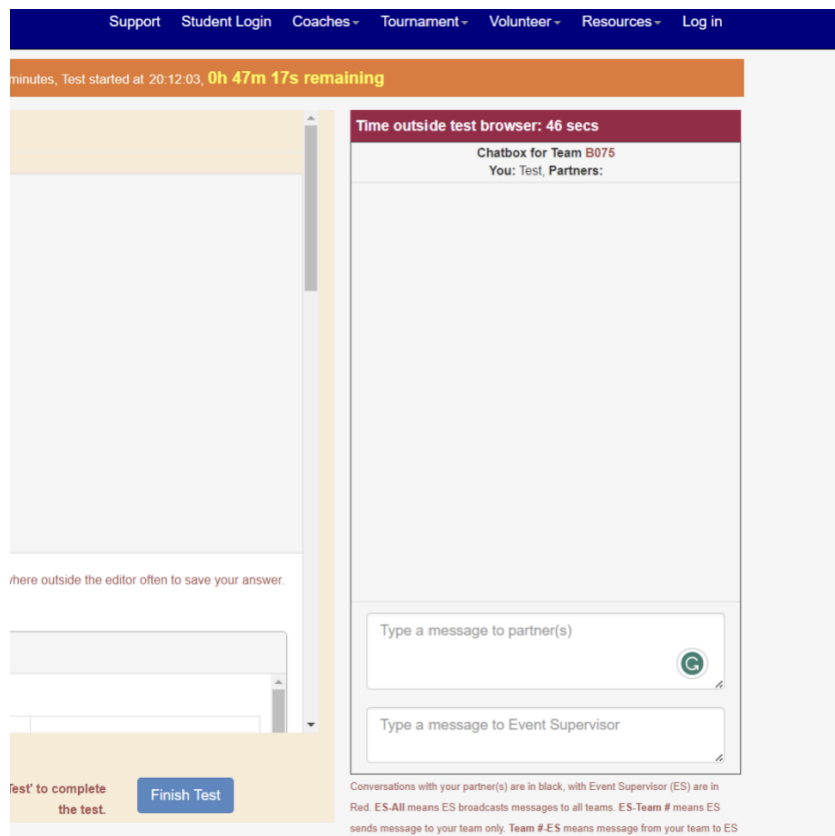
Ornithology B/C (Trial)

Remote Sensing B/C

Rocks and Minerals

Write It Do It

For all other events, we will be recording time out of browser and we will **disqualify** teams with over 30 seconds (over 10 seconds for codebusters) of time out of browser for these events unless a coach contacts me with a reason. **CTRL + F will count as out of browser and is <mark>not</mark> allowed.**

For the tests recording time out of browser, students will be able to clearly see the time out of browser on the top right side of their screen. It will look like this:

Academic Honesty: Coaches, as well as the competitors, will be responsible for the academic honesty of each competing member of the team(s). Cheating will result in disqualification from the event and a score of n+2 as the placement for the event. It is important that students know **many tests have anti-cheat questions**. We will be able to tell that you have cheated based on specific answers to specific questions.

Website: For more information regarding the tournament, please visit rsoi.org. You will be able to find general tournament information here. Our team page with all the event supervisors for this year's invitational is updated. Without them, our invitational wouldn't be possible. These are some of the best Science Olympiad competitors and alumni in the country and on behalf of all of them, we hope to provide all participants with high-quality tests and an enjoyable invitational experience. If your students have any event-specific questions, please tell them to refrain from contacting the event supervisors directly and direct their questions to director@rsoi.org.

Pre-Tournament

*Registration & Payment***:** As a friendly reminder, registration closes Oct. 30. Your teams must be paid by Oct. 30 in order to participate in our competition. If you can't meet this deadline, please email us at director@rsoi.org and we can give you an extension, or for those with extenuating circumstances, we may waive your fees.

Make checks payable to the School District of Leon County. Address: 3013 Jim Lee Rd Tallahassee, Fl 32301. Envelope Title: "Rickards Science Olympiad Invitational (for Dr. Hall). Rickards Science Olympiad can be abbreviated as 'SO'.

After we have received your check or a picture of your check, your team should be marked as paid on our participating schools list.

Here are the instructions to make credit card payments. Keep in mind Efunds will automatically add a convenience fee to the total. If you are paying this way, please send a screenshot of the confirmation and send it to director@rsoi.org to be officially registered.

*State Registration***:** All teams must be registered with their state science olympiad in order to participate. I will be checking with all the state directors after Oct. 30 to confirm everyone has registered with their state.

*Assigning students to teams and events***:** Coaches can head to the head coach dashboard and click on "Student/Team/Event Assignment" to 1) input the student roster, 2) Assign students to teams, and 3) Assign students to events. These steps must be completed in order for students to be able to successfully access and take their tests.

More instructions for students and coaches about assigning events, taking the tests, and troubleshooting can be found on this document.

We will be allowing coaches to change their team rosters any time before the tournament starts on Nov. 1st 8 a.m. EST.

Forms: The Rickards Invitational won't be requiring any release forms or principal certification.

Materials to get: Each team doing Write it Do it and Experimental design will require materials for the students to get. It is imperative that students have access to all of these materials in

order to compete. The materials list can be found on the event modifications document. Please let me know if you have any difficulties acquiring the materials.

Week Of Tournament

Student Login: Students may access their Scilympiad accounts by going to https://scilympiad.com/rickards → Student Login → Take online tests using Login ID. If this is their first time accessing this account, students must enter their first and last name exactly as inputted by the coach in the student roster. Students will be able to see the events they are assigned to after logging in. If they are unable to see their assigned events, it is likely that team numbers have not been assigned for that team, or the coach did not assign the student to the event. If you have issues, please email director@rsoi.org.

Questions: All questions should go to director@rsoi.org. We will forward the email, if requested, to the relevant event supervisor(s). Students and coaches are forbidden from directly contacting event supervisors to ask specific questions, unless explicitly stated in the exam or required for outside submissions.

Outside Submissions: Some events will require outside submissions. Submission requirements are detailed in the event modifications and in the Scilympiad exam. Please make sure students know their team numbers . Also, all the forms are configured to send students a copy of their answers. Students need to make sure they receive this email just in case they need to appeal in the future.

All events that require students to submit images/videos to forms will need to have all images/videos uploaded to their own Google Drive and submit a link we can click to view. When configuring the images/videos, please make sure they are set to be viewable by anyone with the link. You must see the image shown below before you click copy link to ensure we will be able to view and score your files.

With the number of participants, even if each participant submitted a small image, it will quickly fill up our Google Drive. Here is a video on how to add an image to your Google Drive and how

to share its link. Make sure students get familiar with this process. Build events will require video submissions.

Below are the events that require outside image submissions:

Engineering CAD

Experimental Design B/C

Write it Do it

Troubleshooting: Because of the time change on Sunday and the volume of tests being taken, Scilympaid can have some errors occur. Please first check the troubleshooting section of this document. It contains the most common errors students may face. Students taking the test after Nov. 1 need to make sure their timezone has correctly changed to standard time and scilympaid displays the correct timezone (EST). If none of these work, please email director@rsoi.org and be sure to include your team number. This email will be monitored constantly during the day and we will promptly address any issues that may occur.

Team Issues: Coaches, please make sure to monitor this document in case any of your teams has an issue (i.e. out of browser time or no file access) that will result in a disqualification if not handled.

Please also tell your students to make sure to click outside the box periodically in order for their answers to save. This mainly applies to Write It Do It. Please tell them to take the last 10 seconds of the test to make sure they click outside the box and see that the answers have been saved.

Post-Tournament

Awards Ceremony: Due to the number of teams, we have decided to push the awards ceremony back to Nov. 22nd at 8 p.m. EST. We will send out a link to the awards ceremony the day of, but you will also be able to find the video on our YouTube page (subscribe!).

Exam Return: Immediately after the awards ceremony, your teams' tests will be returned on Scilympiad. This will include your teams' raw scores.

Appeals and Disqualifications: Scoring appeals will be done through a Google Form (link to be released later) and not through Scilympiad. Only coaches are permitted to submit appeals; appeals by students/competitors, including captains, will not be accepted.

As tests are graded and events are scored, we will also reach out to teams that may be subject to disqualification due to academic integrity or other reasons as soon as possible. Each email

will contain evidence and reasoning regarding the disqualification. You may appeal your disqualification before Nov 25 11:59 EST. No appeals will be accepted after this date.

Exam Release: Full PDF versions of tests, keys, and histograms will be released to the general public on or before Dec. 2nd. Raw scores will not be made available to the public.

Medals: We will be awarding custom medals to the top 15 teams in division B and the top 20 teams in division C. These along with the additional awards below will be shipped in mid december barring any delays.

Feedback: A feedback form will be sent to all the coaches after the competition. If students could fill it out that would be great!

Please reach out to us if you have any questions at director@rsoi.org.
Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #3 (Oct 20)

Hello Coaches,

I have assigned team numbers to all teams that have already registered so you should be able to assign students to events and teams now. We will be manually assigning team numbers periodically for teams that continue to sign up. Here is a document with all the instructions on how to assign students to teams and events. This must be completed in order for students to be able to compete at the tournament

For Write it Do it, please assign the writer to Write it Do it-Writer and the doer to Write it Do it-Doer

Teams may have a max of 15 students per team. For Division C, each team may have a max of 7 twelfth graders and Division B teams may have a max of 5 ninth graders on the team. Teams may also have as many alternates as they wish to take all our fun trial events. The event supervisors have worked hard and we will also be awarding medals for all the trial events (except anything goes), so please try to have your students do all these fun events.

Medals: We will be getting custom medals to the **top 15 places for division B** and the **top 20 places for division C** for every event except anything goes.

Updates: All previous updates can be accessed through rsoi.org/updates or rsoi.org/announcements. If you did not receive any of the previous updates through email, please make sure to read all the previous updates through those links.

Event Modifications: Make sure your students read the event modifications and understand general policies as well as the event-specific modifications. They will find the resources they can use for each event as well as any changes to the event.

Previously, the event modifications stated that Circuit Lab B would contain a dry lab, but we have decided that there will only be a test portion. A simulated hands-on lab portion will be incorporated into the written test.

Pokemon Trial Removal: Due to some conflicts with test writing, we will no longer be hosting the Pokemon Trial. Please share this information with your students.

EXPD & WIDI Materials: Coaches, please go check the materials lists for Experimental Design and Write it Do it for your corresponding division in the event modifications. Each team will need a complete set of these materials in order to compete. All the materials should be easy to get, but if you have any difficulties acquiring these materials, please let me know.

Payment: Your teams must be paid in order to participate in our competition. As a gentle reminder, payment is due on Oct 30.Checks should be sent following the instructions below:

Make checks payable to the School District of Leon County. Address: 3013 Jim Lee Rd Tallahassee, Fl 32301. Envelop Title: "Rickards Science Olympiad Invitational (for Dr. Hall). Rickards Science Olympiad can be abbreviated as 'SO'.

After we have received your check or a picture of your check, your team should be marked as paid on our participating schools list.

[Here](#) are the instructions to make credit card payments. Keep in mind Efunds will automatically add a convenience fee to the total. If you are paying this way, please send a screenshot of the confirmation and send it to director@rsoi.org to be officially registered.

State Registration: Just a reminder that all teams must be registered with their state science olympiad in order to participate. I will be checking with all the state directors after Oct. 30 to confirm everyone has registered with their state.

Thanks,
Rishi Aka
RSOI Director

Update #2 (Sep 23)

Hello Coaches,

I would like to provide the second update.

Important: If you sent a payment through e-funds on September 16th, please let me know by providing the last four digits of the number of the card that was used to complete the payment so that we can confirm what school it was from and properly mark it down in Scilympiad.

If you haven't already, please register your school with teams as soon as possible on our [Scilympiad website](#). More information on how to register can be found [here](#).

Asynchronous Tournament: Our tournament is asynchronous meaning that teams can do their events anytime between Nov. 1st and Nov. 8th. Schools aren't required to do all their events in one day. Coaches, you may spread out the events over the course of the week and only the students actively taking tests need to be present and supervised.

Event Modifications: Our event modifications are very close to being finalized. We are still waiting on a few events and the trial events which are expected to be done within the next few days. All events will contain the materials students can use for each event as well as any changes the event may have. **Please tell your students to go read the general policies as well as the event-specific modifications for each of their events.** If there are any more changes to the event modifications from now on, it will be included in these updates, including materials needed for EXPD and WIDI.

Important things in event modifications:

- Builds must be recorded by an adult and can be conducted in remote locations. **Students must state the codeword and zoom into the codeword on Scilympiad when recording.**
- Since students can see the time out of browser, for events that require notes to be printed out, we will only be allowing up to 30 seconds of out of browser time before the students get disqualified.

Events: All of the trial events (outside of builds) that we plan on running can be found here. Rules are still being updated for some but will be finished within the next few days.

Team Numbers: I will assign team numbers in the middle of October. I will send another update to all coaches when that has happened. You will then be able to assign students to teams and events.

Updates: All previous updates can be accessed through rsoi.org/updates or rsoi.org/announcements. If you did not receive any of the previous updates through email, please make sure to read all the previous updates through those links.

Registration: Please check here to make sure your school and teams are registered. In order to participate, your teams must also be paid for. Registration for each team costs $85, but Title 1 schools can register for free. If the actual check has not arrived by Oct. 30, we will only require a picture of the check to be sent to director@rsoi.org for your teams to be eligible to compete. The actual check needs to be sent following the instructions below:

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Here are the instructions to make credit card payments. Keep in mind Efunds will automatically add a convenience fee to the total. If you are paying this way, please send a screenshot of the confirmation and send it to director@rsoi.org to be officially registered.

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director

Update #1 (Sep 13)

Hello,

With just over a month and a half until the Rickards Invitational, I want to provide my first update/announcement.

If you haven't already, please register your school with teams as soon as possible on our [Scilympiad website](). More information on how to register can be found [here](). I will assign team numbers in the second week of October after more schools have registered. Coaches, you will then be able to assign students to teams and events.

Tournament Format: Our tournament follows the Satellite format meaning students need to take tests together supervised by a coach. Students can take their tests in any location - their school, a library, or a spaceship in space - as long as students are all together and supervised by a coach. We don't want to discourage anyone from participating, so if your teams cannot find a place that will allow you to follow the Satellite format, please email [director@rsoi.org]() so we can work something out.

As usual, each team may have up to 15 members and a max of 7 can be 12th graders for Division C and a max of 5 can be 9th graders for Division B. Each school may register as many teams as they need.

Event Modifications: Our [event modifications document]() is out. I have made all the general policies, however, we will be updating each event-specific over the next week or two. I will send another update when it is finalized.

Events: The full event slate for both divisions can be found [here](). The event supervisors have decided to add some trial events: Fermi Questions B/C, Fossils B/C, Ornithology B/C, and

Protein Modeling B/C. More information will be able to be found in their respective event-specific modifications.

Build Events: Since our tournament is so early in the season, all build events will be trial events and the events can be conducted at a remote location. Students will be able to conduct their builds anytime from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8. They must be supervised by an adult (the adult doesn't have to be a coach) and the adult must record the video. More information can be found in the event modifications.

Registration: Registration and payment will close for teams on Oct. 30, 2025. If any team needs a W-9, please email director@rsoi.org and we will provide one. Our district only accepts checks, purchase orders, and credit card payments. Registration for each team costs $85, but Title 1 schools can register for free. If the actual check has not arrived by Oct. 30, we will only require a picture of the check to be sent to director@rsoi.org for your teams to be eligible to compete. The actual check needs to be sent following the instructions below:

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Here are the instructions to make credit card payments. Keep in mind that Efunds will automatically add a convenience fee to the total. If you are paying this way, please send a screenshot of the confirmation and send it to director@rsoi.org to be officially registered.

Everyone who sends the check picture or a screenshot of the efunds receipt will have their teams marked as paid here. For Title 1 schools, you will automatically be marked as paid.

State Registration: In accordance with Science Olympiad's membership policy, teams competing at the Rickards SO Invitational must be registered members of their state's Science Olympiad program by Oct. 30

Forms: The Rickards Invitational won't be requiring any release forms or principal certification. If anyone knows any students, coaches, or parents who want to join our email list, have them fill out our mailing list form.

Thanks,

Rishi Aka

RSOI Director