

September 7, 2021

Hello, and welcome to the 2022 Southeast Regional Science Olympiad at FAU!! We are very excited to be hosting this event on Feb 26, 2022.

At this time, we are planning for a fully in-person event. We recognize, however, that this might change depending on conditions in the weeks leading up to the event, and we have contingencies planned in case we need to switch to a hybrid or an all-virtual format. Please keep checking back for possible updates to the plan, and of course I will also keep you updated via e-mail. I expect that sometime in early 2022 I will be able to confirm one way or the other exactly how the event will be run. Again, the hope and the plan are that it will be fully in-person.

Masks: Unless the COVID situation really changes for the better (and let's hope that it does!!), we will be requiring all persons to provide and wear a mask whenever they enter any indoor space. This includes hallways, restrooms, the competition classrooms, the homeroom classroom, and any other indoor space. An exception will be made for individuals who have a legitimate reason for not wearing a mask. In such cases, the coach needs to make me aware of the student and their situation (within the limits of confidentiality) in advance of the competition.

Masks are also expected to be worn in all outside spaces whenever practical, and whenever in close contact with other people not in your group, for example during morning check-in and during the awards ceremony.

Events Open to Public: For 2022, all indoor events are closed to the public; only student competitors and the event supervisors and staff will be allowed in the competition rooms. This includes events being held in the gymnasium. The only events open to the public are those being held outdoors, which includes Storm the Castle in Division B, and Trajectory in Division C. I trust that you will understand and respect this decision.

Vaccines: It is my expectation that all attendees who are eligible to be vaccinated will be vaccinated, however I cannot require this, and I probably wouldn't require it even if I could. We are scientists, I presume we all understand that for the vast majority of people, the huge benefit of a vaccine (to ourselves and to others) outweighs the miniscule risk.

Thank you!!



Tim C. Theisen, Ph.D.

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