A Successful Tournament

33rd Michigan Science Olympiad State Tournament – May 2nd 2015

There appears to be a true conflict of interest upon considering the definition of these two roles, which hinders our ability to prepare a well-run and fair competition for the Science Olympiad competitors.

VOLUNTEER—one who renders a service or takes part in a transaction while having no legal concern or interest (no bias toward the role of service)

COACH—one who instructs or trains <an acting coach>; especially: one who instructs players in the fundamentals of a sport [competition] and directs team strategy

We asked you to provide adults to volunteer to assist in the competition who are not coaches for your team. Even parents who coach an event (or area of events) may/will find it difficult to stay in the ROLE OF A VOLUNTEER while working in events.

The purpose and role of tournament volunteers is to provide unbiased assistance to the Event Supervisors. No other lens, such as that of a coach, should cross the threshold of an event in session. PLEASE, be reminded, and remind those whose names you provided to us, that they are to serve ONLY as volunteers. Volunteers are expected to assist in the making of a great tournament experience for ALL students, support the Supervisor, and check any coaching-type bias at the door. Event Supervisors are volunteers as well, and are striving to run a fair competition for ALL participants.

For example, Tom Izzo is great coach for MSU. Tom Izzo would probably make a great referee, too. But, it would be asking a lot of him to serve as a referee when his team is competing on the floor. Most would find this to be grossly biased and unfair. He could serve in either role, but not both.

We are monitoring your provision of the volunteer support we requested. The Michigan Science Olympiad State Board will review this information.