

The following document was prepared to offer some guidance to teams as they select calculators for use in different Science Olympiad events. **The calculator class listed in the event rules is the most complex calculator level allowed for the event. It is acceptable to use a lower calculator class in the event (e.g., Class III calculator is allowed for the event students are therefor allowed to use a class I, class II or class III calculator).** By no means are the calculators listed here inclusive of all possible calculators; instead they are offered as common examples. The decisions of the event supervisors will be final.

**Class I - Stand-alone non-graphing, non-programmable, non-scientific 4-function or 5-function calculators** are the most basic type of calculators and often look like the one shown to the right. These calculators are limited to the four basic mathematics functions and sometimes square roots. These calculators can often be found at dollar stores.



**Class II - Stand-alone non-programmable, non-graphing calculators** look like the calculator to the right or simpler. There are hundreds of calculators in this category but some common examples include: CASIO FX-260, Sharp EL-501, and TI-30X.



**Class III- Stand-alone, programmable, graphing calculators and stand-alone non-graphing, programmable calculators**, often look like the calculator shown on the right. Some examples are: Casio 975 0/9850/9860, HP 40/50/PRIME, and TI 83/84/89/NSPIRE/VOYAGE.

To identify a stand-alone non-graphing, programmable calculators Are look for the presence of the 'EXE' button, the 'Prog' button, or a 'file' button. Examples include but are not limited to: Casio Super FXs, numerous older Casio models, and HP 35S. A calculator of this type with the buttons labeled is shown to the right.

PROG Button



EXE Button



**Class IV - Calculator applications on multipurpose devices** (e.g., laptop, phone, tablet, watch) are not allowed unless expressly permitted in the event rule.

