



Common Mistakes and How to Be More Competitive

(slides available after clinic)

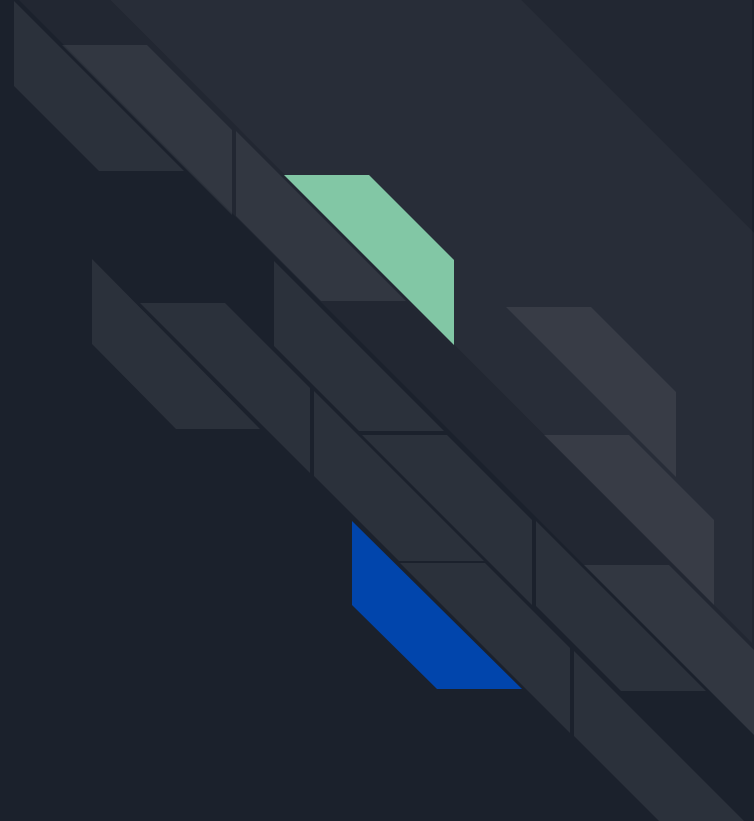


Agenda

- How to Avoid Common Mistakes (10 min)
- How to Be More Competitive (15 min)
- Q&A (5 min)

Any time I reference “you” here, I’m talking about the students

How to Avoid Common Mistakes





Rules

- Read and understand the Rules (then read them again, then again)
 - Highlight the important parts (e.g. device specs, masses, distances)
 - Make sure you're using the right lists for Entomology, Rocks & Minerals, etc
 - Check Impound, Protective Equipment, and Calculator requirements
- Check [Rules Corrections](#) throughout the season (these are rare)
- Check [Rules Clarifications](#) throughout the season



Builds

- Make sure to impound everything required and what you need to compete
- Make sure to use correct dimensions
- Make sure to use correct components
- Make sure to NOT use Lithium batteries (use NiMH for rechargeables)
- Make sure you can answer questions about the build
- If filing an Appeal, make sure to leave the device impounded



Competition

Avoid outside help (or the perception of it)

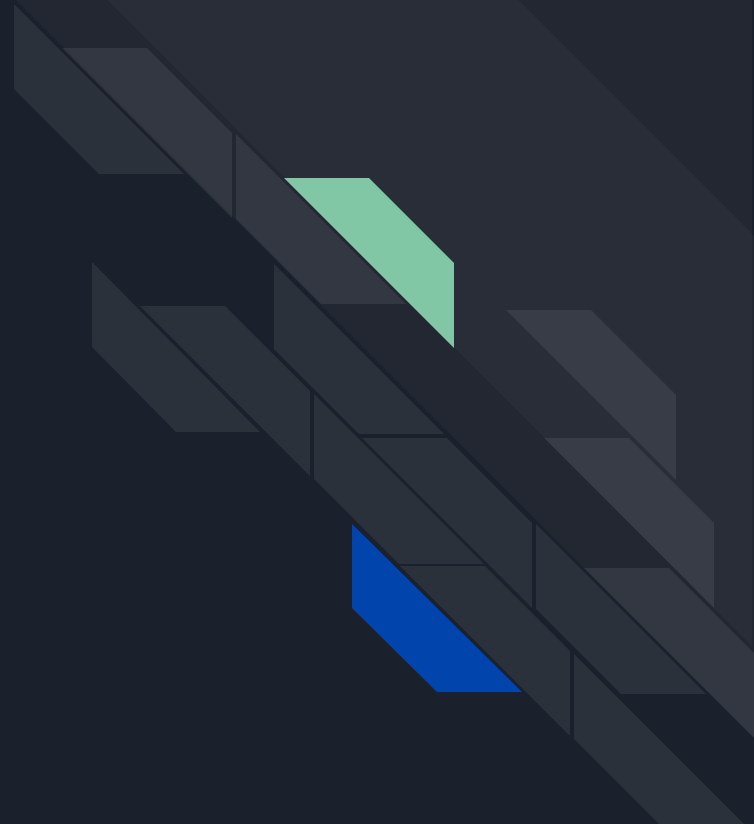
Travelling

- Safely transport devices (e.g. boomi, heli) **TO** and **DURING** competition
- Test/calibrate the devices upon arrival and adjust/fix as needed (not at official location)
- Bring spare everything (e.g. glue, wood, batteries, pencils, goggles)

Equipment

- Have the correct Personal Protective Equipment (e.g. clothing, lab coats, goggles)
- Have the correct Calculators
- Have pencils (they're not provided)
- If sharing equipment, make sure to practice handoffs!

How to Be More Competitive





General

- Start Early in the season (rules come out first week of September)
- Use the [SciOly.org Wiki](#) to gain a better understanding of the events
- Use the [SciOly.org Test Exchange](#) to find/practice relevant tests
- Go to previous tournaments' pages and look for their tests (if not on the exchange)
- Virtual Competitions ([SOInc List](#))
 - Do as many as you can!!!
 - Most can be done over a week, or you can emulate in-person by doing it on Saturday
 - Some have build events, but many are just testing
 - Different scoring system
- Develop healthy sleep and diet routines!



Builds

Practice as though at a competition

- Have build teams act as Event Supervisors for each other
- Use [Team Checklists](#) and [Scoresheets](#)

Buy vs Build

- Helicopter - Freedom Flights, JH Aerospace, Guru
- Electric Vehicle - Tektite, Unphayzed
- Robot Tour - Tektite, Unphayzed

Use “scripts” when practicing



Competitions

- Participate in every event if possible (score is cumulative)
- Plan/rehearse route between events
- Coordinate impounds (can use other teammates for this)
- Assemble *Competition Day Kits*
 - Label all boxes
 - Notes / Laptops
 - Pencils
 - Calculators
 - Logs
 - Tools/parts for build events
 - Impound boxes



Post-Competition

Retrospectives

- What did we do well?
- What could we have done better?
- How will we do it differently next time?

Celebrate, regardless of how you placed!



Q&A

What questions do you have?