School Connect Online

SCO INTERNATIONAL

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

RULES & REGULATIONS

Global exam guidance, cycle schedule, pedagogy and secure participation framework

Designed for Grade 1-12 learners and aligned with SCO's Science Olympiad preparation, registration, exam-cycle, proctored assessment, reporting and recognition flow.

- clear participation rules for students, schools, teachers and parents
- cycle-based exam dates using DD MMM YYYY format for global clarity
- syllabus-linked scientific pedagogy from early observation to pre-university STEM readiness
- free online study materials and practice support for registered students
- secure proctored / anti-cheating framework for trusted online Olympiad results

Science	Rules	Exam Dates	Students	Teachers
Parents	Proctored	Free Practice	Global STEM	Results

SCO International Science Olympiad Rules & Regulations

This document defines the recommended public-facing rules, regulations, schedule guidance, exam conduct, preparation framework and stakeholder value proposition for SCO International Science Olympiad (SCO ISO). It is written for website publication, school circulars, student guidance and parent communication.

Eligibility	Schedule	Format	Integrity
Class 1-12	**Cycle-based**	**Objective paper**	**Proctored**
Grade-wise Science Olympiad participation	Spring, Summer and Winter windows	Class-wise MCQ / reasoning-led exam guidance	Transparent online anti-cheating framework

1. Purpose and Global Pedagogy Positioning

SCO ISO is positioned as a Science Olympiad that supports classroom learning, global STEM readiness and fair online assessment. The programme should not be presented only as a marks contest; it should be presented as a structured learning journey that develops curiosity, evidence-based reasoning, experimental thinking, data interpretation, environmental awareness and long-term STEM confidence.

- Indian context: supports NEP-aligned priorities such as critical thinking, experiential learning, competency-based learning, digital access and reduced dependency on rote memorisation.
- Global context: supports scientific literacy, inquiry, sustainability, climate/environment awareness, responsible technology use and future STEM pathways.
- SCO context: combines registration, free preparation access, practice support, online exam delivery, proctored integrity, performance reporting and recognition in one ecosystem.

SCO ISO education promise

The purpose of SCO International Science Olympiad is to make Science learning more visible, measurable, fair and future-ready for learners across India and international school communities.

2. Official Eligibility and Participation Rules

Rule Area	SCO ISO Rule / Regulation
Eligibility	Students from Class 1 to Class 12 may participate in SCO International Science Olympiad, subject to the open registration window, selected grade, school/individual category, and active cycle availability.
Registration route	Registration may be completed through school/institution registration or individual/parent registration where available. Details must match student identity records and should be checked before final submission.
Exam-cycle selection	Students/schools select a published date in Spring, Summer or Winter cycle. Custom school-date requests may be reviewed before approval when the school calendar requires it.
Date format standard	All public-facing dates should use the clear format DD MMM YYYY, for example 04 Apr 2026. Avoid confusing numeric-only dates on website pages, circulars and student instructions.
Syllabus standard	Students must prepare according to their own class syllabus and paper level. Grades 1-7 are Science-focused; Grades 8-12 may include Physics, Chemistry, Biology and related Science pathways according to class structure.
Exam format	The standard website-facing exam format should be shown as a class-wise objective Olympiad paper, normally one paper, 60 minutes, MCQ-based, with marks and section rules printed in the final question paper/admit-card instructions.
One-response rule	Unless the question clearly states multiple-correct or assertion-reason format, each MCQ has only one correct answer. Students must select only one option.
Preparation access	Registered students should receive access to SCO preparation support such as free online study materials, chapter-wise reading resources, practice questions, mock-style practice and performance support.

Language support	Where available, learning guidance, school communication and preparation support may be provided in multiple languages to support global and regional participation.
Device readiness	Students must use a stable device and internet connection. A laptop/desktop/tablet is recommended for a better online proctored-exam experience. Camera/microphone permissions should be tested before the exam.
Fair conduct	Students must attempt independently. External help, impersonation, screen sharing, AI/solver assistance, textbook/phone use, tab switching, group discussion or unauthorised communication can trigger review or disqualification.
Proctoring acceptance	By starting the exam, the student agrees to SCO online proctoring and anti-cheating rules, including camera/mic readiness, browser/session monitoring, event logging, and policy-based integrity review.
Result policy	Scores, rank, percentile/certificate categories and final result visibility are published according to SCO result rules after exam completion and review. Proctoring penalties may affect the final score when applicable.
Grievance and support	Students/schools must report technical issues with registration ID, student details, exam date/time and screenshots where available. SCO review decisions are based on logs, exam records and policy evidence.

3. Standard Exam Format and Candidate Instructions

Exam Format Component	Standard Guidance
Applicable grades	Class 1 to Class 12; question difficulty and syllabus scope change by class.
Paper type	Objective Science Olympiad paper with grade-wise Science / Physics / Chemistry / Biology readiness according to class level.
Question style	MCQ, reasoning, assertion-reason/case-based/data-based/application questions where applicable. Unless stated otherwise, one option is correct.
Indicative time	60 minutes is recommended as the public-facing standard. The final admit card/question paper instructions will prevail for the exact paper.
Indicative marks	SCO ISO website-facing information may show 60 marks / one paper; class-specific instructions may vary and must be printed clearly on the final paper.
Negative marking	If any class/paper includes negative marking, it must be declared in the question paper/admit card before the exam begins.
Calculator / external aid	Calculator, textbooks, notes, mobile assistance, AI/solver tools, messaging or external help are not permitted unless the official instructions specifically allow them.
OMR / online response rule	Students must mark/select answers carefully. In online exams, the final saved response at submission time is considered for scoring.
Result basis	Final result may include raw score, rank/percentile/certificate category and proctor-integrity review as per SCO policy.

4. SCO ISO Cycle-Based Exam Schedule

Dates should be shown in DD MMM YYYY format for international clarity. The following cycle model combines the supplied SCO ISO exam-plan data with the public cycle presentation style used for website and school communication.

Cycle	Official Window / Planning Window	Result / Publish Reference	Public Use
Spring 2026	01 Jan 2026 - 31 Mar 2026	30 Apr 2026	Active cycle for early-year preparation and participation
Summer 2026	01 Apr 2026 - 31 Jul 2026	31 Aug 2026	Active cycle suited to vacation learning and enrichment
Winter 2026-27	Aug-Dec 2026 official cycle window; published school slots Sep-Dec 2026	28 Feb 2027	Academic-year bridge cycle for India and international calendars

Spring 2027	01 Jan 2027 - 31 Mar 2027	30 Apr 2027	Next-year cycle reference for long-term school planning
Summer 2027	01 Apr 2027 - 31 Jul 2027	31 Aug 2027	Next-year vacation/enrichment planning window
Winter 2027-28	01 Aug 2027 - 31 Dec 2027	29 Feb 2028	Next winter academic-year bridge cycle

Public date-format rule: use 04 Apr 2026, not 04/04/2026, because numeric-only dates can be read differently in different countries.

Cycle	Published Date Slots	Grade-Wise Applicability
SPRING 2026	03 Jan 2026, 11 Jan 2026, 24 Jan 2026, 07 Feb 2026 08 Feb 2026, 28 Feb 2026, 07 Mar 2026, 08 Mar 2026 28 Mar 2026	Applicable across Grade 1-12, with class-wise syllabus, difficulty and paper format.
SUMMER 2026	04 Apr 2026, 12 Apr 2026, 25 Apr 2026, 02 May 2026 10 May 2026, 23 May 2026, 06 Jun 2026, 14 Jun 2026 27 Jun 2026, 04 Jul 2026, 12 Jul 2026, 25 Jul 2026	Applicable across Grade 1-12, with class-wise syllabus, difficulty and paper format.
WINTER 2026-27	04 Sep 2026, 12 Sep 2026, 20 Sep 2026, 02 Oct 2026 10 Oct 2026, 18 Oct 2026, 06 Nov 2026, 14 Nov 2026 15 Nov 2026, 04 Dec 2026, 12 Dec 2026, 20 Dec 2026	Applicable across Grade 1-12, with class-wise syllabus, difficulty and paper format.

5. Grade 1-12 Syllabus and Learning Scope

The SCO ISO syllabus should be represented as a vertical learning pathway. Early grades build observation and everyday Science awareness; middle grades build experimentation and conceptual reasoning; senior grades build discipline-level Physics, Chemistry and Biology readiness.

Grade Band	Science Scope	Expected Learning Outcome
Grades 1-2	Foundational observation, plants, animals, body, safety, air, water, weather, sky, living/non-living things	Curiosity, naming, observing, comparing and describing
Grades 3-5	Plants, animals, food, human body, environment, matter, force, light, sound, water, air, natural resources and solar system	Concept clarity, everyday-science reasoning and picture/data interpretation
Grades 6-8	Materials, separation, changes, plants, body movement, habitats, measurement, circuits, magnets, acids, bases, heat, cells and conservation	Scientific method, cause-effect thinking, diagrams, data and applied reasoning
Grades 9-10	Secondary Physics, Chemistry and Biology: motion, force, energy, matter, atoms, life processes, reproduction, heredity, electricity, light and environment	Board readiness, higher-order application and analytical problem solving
Grades 11-12	Advanced Physics, Chemistry and Biology: mechanics, thermodynamics, optics, organic/physical/inorganic chemistry, genetics, biotechnology, ecology and physiology	Pre-university STEM orientation, research readiness and career-linked scientific thinking

6. Global Science Olympiad Pedagogy Model

Pedagogy Stage	How SCO ISO Supports It
Observe	Students notice patterns, changes, objects, forces, living systems and environmental features.
Question	Students learn to ask why/how questions instead of only memorising definitions.
Explain	Students use scientific concepts to explain phenomena in everyday and exam contexts.
Investigate	Students compare evidence, interpret diagrams/data and think through experimental situations.

Apply	Students solve grade-level problems involving health, environment, materials, energy, motion, technology and sustainability.
Reflect	Students review performance reports and improve concept clarity before the next cycle.

7. Benefits and Value Addition for Education Stakeholders

Stakeholder	SCO ISO Advantage
Students	Science curiosity, concept clarity, global benchmarking, free practice support, secure assessment, confidence, STEM/career orientation and fair recognition.
Schools	Grade 1-12 enrichment pathway, flexible cycle dates, school-wise participation, talent identification, international visibility and a trusted proctored delivery model.
Teachers	Chapter-wise preparation structure, higher-order question practice, evidence/data interpretation, revision planning and classroom enrichment beyond rote learning.
Parents	Transparent schedule, online access, free preparation support after registration, secure exam conditions, certificates/rank visibility and long-term STEM awareness.

8. Free Preparation, Practice and Multi-Language Readiness

Registered students should be guided to use SCO preparation resources before the official exam date. This supports equal opportunity, reduces overdependence on coaching, and helps students from different regions prepare through a structured platform.

Preparation Feature	Value to Learners
Free online study materials	Chapter-wise learning support for registered students through SCO resources.
Practice questions	Topic-level MCQ and reasoning practice to improve accuracy and exam confidence.
Mock / revision support	Practice with exam-style timing, question types and response discipline.
Performance insight	Reports and feedback can help identify strengths and improvement areas.
Multiple-language availability	Where available, multi-language/local-language support helps schools and families from diverse regions access Science learning better.
Global access	Online delivery and cycle-based dates make participation easier for Indian and international schools.

9. Proctored / Anti-Cheating Rules

A globally trusted online Olympiad requires transparent exam integrity. SCO ISO students must follow device, identity, behaviour and proctoring rules. Suspicious activity may be reviewed using proctoring signals, session logs and policy bands.

- Student must sit alone in a quiet place and keep the exam window active during the attempt.
- Camera and microphone permissions should be allowed wherever required by the proctoring flow.
- Frequent tab switching, screen hiding, camera obstruction, multiple faces, external communication or suspicious device behaviour can be reviewed.
- Use of unauthorised notes, textbooks, search engines, AI tools, messaging apps, calculators or another person's help is not allowed unless official instructions permit it.
- SCO may apply risk-band review, penalty, result hold, retest decision, disqualification or school-level escalation where integrity rules are violated.

Fairness principle

The proctoring system is designed to protect genuine students, credible schools and trustworthy results. The intention is not to create fear; it is to make online Olympiad participation fair and globally reliable.

Integrity Band	Risk Range	Meaning	Penalty / Action
Excellent	0-19	Fair attempt	0%
Good	20-39	Minor risk	2%
Average	40-59	Medium risk	5%
Alert / Not Fair	60+	Alert review or disqualification	100%

10. Awards, Certificates, Results and Recognition Rules

Area	Regulation
Result publication	Results are published on SCO dashboard and/or communicated according to the official cycle/result schedule after score processing and integrity review.
Certificate categories	Certificates and recognition categories are issued as per SCO rules, score/rank criteria and exam policy applicable to the cycle.
School recognition	Schools may use participation and achievement reports for academic enrichment, assemblies, newsletters and parent communication.
Student recognition	Students should be recognised for concept mastery, improvement, merit and fair participation, not only rank.
Disputes	Any score/result/proctoring query must be submitted with registration details and supporting information within the declared support window.

11. Rules for Website, School Circulars and Public Communication

- Always use the official name: SCO International Science Olympiad (SCO ISO).
- Show class eligibility clearly as Class 1 to Class 12.
- Use DD MMM YYYY date format across website pages and PDFs.
- Mention that dates are cycle-based and may be selected according to published availability or approved school date request.
- Do not promise final result/rank/certificate without participation, score validation and proctor-integrity review.
- Always mention free preparation support for registered students and secure proctored exam delivery.

12. Website-Ready Rules & Regulations Summary

Website / PDF summary

SCO International Science Olympiad is a Grade 1-12 Science Olympiad designed to build curiosity, scientific reasoning, concept clarity, STEM readiness and fair global recognition. Students may register through individual or school routes, choose a suitable Spring, Summer or Winter cycle date, prepare using SCO free online study materials and practice resources, and appear through a secure proctored exam framework. Every student must follow exam instructions, independent-attempt rules, device readiness guidelines and anti-cheating policy. Final results, certificates, ranks and awards are subject to score validation, cycle rules and integrity review.

13. Important Disclaimers

- The live SCO website, final admit card and final question paper instructions prevail over any older circular or draft.
- Cycle dates and slots may be updated according to operational requirements, seat availability, school requests or technical considerations.
- The exam format shown in public documents is a standard guidance format; class-wise question count, marks, sections or negative marking must be checked from official paper instructions.
- SCO reserves the right to review suspicious attempts and take action under the anti-cheating policy to protect result credibility.

14. Research and Reference Inputs

The document aligns SCO ISO rules with the official SCO website ecosystem and global Science/STEM education direction, including scientific literacy, inquiry, evidence, environmental agency and future-ready STEM capability.

Reference	URL
SCO International Science Olympiad page	https://www.schoolconnectonline.com/exam/iso
SCO Exam Dates	https://www.schoolconnectonline.com/olympiadexamdate.aspx
SCO School / Institution Registration	https://www.schoolconnectonline.com/SchoolRegistration.aspx
SCO Anti-Cheating System	https://www.schoolconnectonline.com/AntiCheatingExam.aspx
SCO Free Olympiad Reading & Preparation Resources	https://www.schoolconnectonline.com/reading-material.aspx
SCO Free Preparation Platform	https://www.schoolconnectonline.com/user-friendly.aspx
OECD PISA 2025 Science Framework	https://pisa-framework.oecd.org/science-2025/
UNESCO STEM Education	https://www.unesco.org/en/stem
Government of India - National Education Policy 2020	https://www.education.gov.in/national-education-policy-2020-0