

To,
The Principal,

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

The current corona pandemic has caused untold damages to the country in general and the Education field in particular. Our children are bearing the brunt of this crisis. We will need to mobilize all resources at our disposal to ensure children continue to get the best possible education. Schools are doing yeoman's work in this direction, continuously innovating and adapting to ensure the best possible learning for students.

I am happy to share that SOF has completely transformed its process and pattern of Olympiad exams to bring it on par with the ground realities. It has become all the more important for us to see that children continue to learn and also test their learnings/knowledge at the individual level and also vis-a-vis other students to maintain their competitive spirits. Of course, rewards and recognition will go a long way in ensuring children continue to prepare and excel academically.

In consonance with the above, the following changes have been made in our exams for 2020-21; these supersede all other information/prospectus shared with schools/parents

ONLINE EXAMS – All our exams will be conducted online this year. Students will appear for the chosen exams from their homes.

DATES OF EXAMS – The following 4 Olympiad exams will be conducted as per revised dates shared below; please note all exams will now be conducted on Saturdays & Sundays to ensure students do not miss out on online classes, and younger children have parents' support to log in for exams. On selected Saturdays and Sundays, exams will be conducted class wise, in different time slots to ensure exams are conducted smoothly. Exact timings of exams will be shared separately.

SOF IGKO			SOF IEO		
SET A	SET B	SET C	SET A	SET B	SET C
7 & 8 Nov	21 & 22 Nov	5 & 6 Dec	14 & 15 Nov	28 & 29 Nov	12 & 13 Dec
SOF NSO			SOF IMO		
SET A	SET B	SET C	SET A	SET B	SET C
19 & 20 Dec	9 & 10 Jan	30 & 31 Jan	26 & 27 Dec	2 & 3 Jan	23 & 24 Jan

INTEGRITY OF EXAMS – SOF has partnered a leading global organization to ensure international protocols for conducting online exams are implemented. This may include, among others, video recording of exams, extensive use of artificial intelligence and remote proctoring during exams. We will endeavour to give certificates to each participant with her/ his photo clicked during the exam.

REGISTRATIONS – Schools and / or students can register for exams and also pay registration fee from their offices or homes. Schools may send us student registrations by any of the following methods:

- Online registration by school and payment of fee (<http://ors.sofworld.org/>) – school may collate all students’ registrations and forward to SOF.
- Direct registration by students and payment of fee (<https://pages.razorpay.com/science-olympiad>) - On approval of their school, Students may register for exams, buy books, and pay registration fee from their homes.
- Couriering or e-mailing registration details and payment details to SOF – as was being sent earlier

PRACTICE EXAMS/MOCK TESTS – Each student will be encouraged to take mock tests to practice for online exams and to check the compatibility of her/his device to be used for exams. It will be essential for students to use a PC/ Laptop with internet connectivity and a webcam and in case of non availability, a smartphone with a camera.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ZONES – 6 new zones are being added. This will not only make the exams more competitive but also provide 30% more awards to students, teachers and principals.

NEW RANKING – In addition to providing to each participating student school rank, city rank, zonal rank, and international rank, regional rank will also be provided with Indian states and UTs’ being categorized as North, East, West and South regions.

SCHOOL TOPPER AWARDS – Section wise registrations are being discontinued and class topper medals – “Gold Medals of Excellence” will be awarded on following registrations/class:

- 5 to 9 registrations – Medal of Excellence to topper.
- 10 to 25 registrations – Medals of Excellence to top 3 rank holders.
- 26 + registrations – Medals of Excellence to top 10% rank holders.

AWARDS VALUE – For the 6 SOF Olympiad exams conducted during 2019-20 value of awards was approx. Rs.18 crores. For the current year, awards value will be based on students/schools participation in 4 Olympiad exams. Students will be awarded based on their School, Zonal and International ranks. School principals and teachers will be felicitated based on the performance of schools at International, Zonal, and Distt. level with cash awards, trophies, gifts, and citations.

REGISTRATION FEE – There is no change in registration fee. Schools in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal will pay to SOF **Rs.125/* (including GST) per student per Olympiad exam towards cost of exam. Schools may charge an additional Rs. 25/** per student per exam towards honorarium of incharge, remuneration to teachers to teach and guide, and for other expenses.**

No fee is payable for students suffering from a major disability or an Indian student whose parent was martyred during defence operations. (***USD** 9 for international countries. ****USD** 1 for international countries)

SOF will share details on registrations and online exams through a separate communication.

Meanwhile, I pray for you and your family's safety and well being and that of teachers and students of your school. I also look forward to your continuing support and participation in SOF's Olympiad exams during 2020-21.

Best Regards
Mahabir Singh
Founder Director