**Odyssey 101 or Welcome to the World of Odyssey of the Mind**

**Team** – 5 to 7 members + **Coach/es** + **Problem**

**Meetings** – 1 a week up to many a week the closer the team gets to competition day

**Where** – school, parents home, etc.

**What you need to know** – how to register your team, how to register your judges, what your membership # is and the correct registered name of the membership. [www.paodyssey.com](http://www.paodyssey.com) – click on registration on the side bar – select team or judge. We are North Central Region.

All the team members need to know the membership # as well. Judges often ask this of teams.

**Judges** – 2 and they must be trained – one is the problem judge (long term) the other is spontaneous. Must be 18 and graduated from high school and must able to attend training, judge at the regional competition and then at the state competition if team advances. Judges need to be given a copy of the problem the team is working on and a copy of the program rules found in the program guide.

Forms and program Guide are located in the member area when you login. Forms are also located in the program guide.

**Dates:**

Judges Training – Feb. 10, 2018 at Loyalsock High School in Williamsport

Regional Competition – March 3, 2018 at Berwick Area High School

State Competition – April 2, 2018 at Pocono Mountain

**Coaches** – read the Problem and read the Program Guide and know the rules – team needs to do the same – many times so that they know the problem inside and out.
**Questions** – read the problem, read the rules – still have question – send for clarification

**Clarifications** – [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) home page – right side bar – click on clarifications and follow directions – when asking for a clarification make sure that the problem does not already cover the question – make sure to check the general clarifications that have been published periodically (also found on the clarification page – they are listed by problem. Often if a clarification is issued it supersedes what the problem may be saying. Teams may find that not knowing what has been changed can cause problems with scoring the day of competition.

**Cost Form** – everything a team uses must be listed – but trash items are not costed – like newspaper, cardboard etc. Electronic and Musical instruments and some items have assigned costs which are found in the program guide. This is why the team needs to read the rules and read the rules.

**Outside Assistance** – the team must conceive the idea for the solution and create it by themselves. You as a coach may not give ideas, or even hint that one idea is better than another. If they ask what you like best – a safe reply is “what do you like best and why”. Counter those types of questions by turning them around so that they have to answer. You may teach them a skill or have someone else come in to do this – anything may be taught from stage presence to sewing. But when teaching a skill it may not be done with any idea or prop or costume the team is planning on making. You may however remind them of things that they may have said by having one of the team keep a record of ideas etc. You may help them to stay focused, have brainstorming sessions, practice spontaneous, feed them snacks, etc. Have them make a timeline so that they are able to stay on track.

**Outside Asssistance Form** – Must be signed by all team members, even those who may have dropped off the team. Coaches also sign this.

**Style forms** – must be filled out by team, division 1 teams may have the coach write down what they say on the form in their words – not the coaches. No suggestions should be offered on how to say what they want to say in perhaps a better way. Each problem has a list in the problem itself on what is to be judged for style, usually two of these a required and 2 are free choices for the team to pick. The fifth one is overall effect. That is how the 4 items listed enhance or make their solution unique or creative. The team should have 4 copies to present to the staging area judge.

**Required list** – All of the problems also have a required list that must be submitted. What is to be included on this list is also in specified in the problem. A team should have 4 copies of this.

**Spontaneous** – Practice spontaneous, verbal and hands on at least 15 to 20 minutes each meeting. Spontaneous can make or break a team the day of competition. There are lots of spontaneous problems on the web. You can also purchase books from www.odysseyofthemind.com. Bottom of home page is OOTM Store.

**Whose is in charge** – Each region has a Regional Director that can answer most questions that are not problem specific. Each region has problem captains for each of the Long Term Problems and for Spontaneous – they are listed on the North Central Web page at [www.ncpaodyssey.org](http://www.ncpaodyssey.org). You are in the North Central Region

**Resources** – there is a multitude of information on the internet – make sure you check out [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) web site as well as [www.paodyssey.com](http://www.paodyssey.com) website, especially our web pages for the North Central Region. We have a lot of past years coaches training info posted. Check out other state associations’ odyssey of the mind websites – NY(NYSOMA) has tons of info, as do other states.