



Pennsylvania Odyssey of the Mind

October 2020

Dear PA Odyssey family,

We hope you and your loved ones are all safe and well. To adjust for our new reality, Odyssey of the Mind has made a few changes to the 2020-21 season. There will be two types of memberships — and two competition tracks.

Two Types of Memberships:

- One membership is the usual. It's being called a **Traditional Membership**. This is for teams who can comply with the membership requirements — an entity sponsors a team(s), memberships can sponsor one team per problem per division, etc.
- The second membership is being called a **Virtual Membership**. This is for teams who can't meet the Traditional Membership requirements. It allows teams to be formed outside of an official entity. It forgoes the requirement that students are from the same school; you can mix students from different areas. This works if your school isn't allowing Odyssey of the Mind or if you are quarantining with a group outside of school and want to make that your Odyssey team.

For more about membership requirements, please see the 2020-21 Program Guide at odysseyofthemind.com/program-guide.

Two Competition Tracks:

- One track is the **In-Person Track**. This is for teams who have Traditional Memberships and want to compete in an in-person competition — when available and legal.
- The second track is the **Virtual Track**. This is for all teams with Virtual Memberships *plus* any teams with a Traditional Membership who choose to compete virtually.

Important Notes:

- Teams will choose a competition track on their team registration form for the regional tournament. The track may be changed until the team registration deadline, January 15, 2021. The track may not be changed once this deadline has passed.
- If an in-person competition is not able to happen at any level, the teams in the In-Person track will be required to submit a virtual performance and materials which will be judged virtually. Teams will advance to the next level of competition which will be in-person, if possible, and virtual, if not.
- Teams in the In-Person Track will not compete against teams in the Virtual Track, even if their in-person competition is moved to virtual. There will always be two tracks of competitors.

If you have any questions as you get started this year, please feel free to reach out to your regional director or the appropriate state board volunteer at paodyssey.com/contact-us. If you're not sure who to contact, you can email your question to AskOMER@paodyssey.com. OMER will deliver your message to the right person!

Thank you for continuing to inspire young creative problem-solvers across the state of Pennsylvania. We truly appreciate everything you do! Stay safe, and be well.

The PA Odyssey of the Mind Volunteer Board of Directors

NCPA – North Central Co-Regional Directors – Karyl Otruba, April Lewis – regionaldirector.nc@paodyssey.com

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