

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PURPOSE

The ODACS Regional and State Competitions and the AACS National Competition have been organized to provide a challenge toward excellence among the students of fundamental Christian schools across America. This competition will allow young people to develop disciplined skills in various areas of proficiency so that they might better serve the Lord throughout their lives. Certainly a worthy goal of Christian Education is to follow the example of our Savior who "...increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

The ODACS Competition qualifies high school students for the AACS National Competition. Thus, ODACS rules at the high school level essentially parallel AACS rules, but there are some differences! We have tried to note differences in the ODACS manual, but schools planning to send students to the National Competition MUST obtain a copy of the AACS Competition Manual in order to have complete AACS rules, information for national competitors, and National Judging Forms. The National Manual may be ordered from the AACS office (423-629-4280) or online at [www.aacs.org](http://www.aacs.org).

### ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS

Every participating school must send ODACS a signed statement that all students entered in both group and individual categories meet eligibility requirements. Please send this statement along with your list of students to your Regional Coordinator at least ten days before the Regional Competition. If schools do not have their statement in by the due date, they may be declared ineligible to compete. Any school that has paid the appropriate dues and is a member in good standing may enter competition.

- ODACS Competition: A school may enter only one individual or group in each category.
- Enrollment Requirements: A student may participate in an Old Dominion Association of Church Schools activity only if the student is considered enrolled in the participating ODACS school. Enrollment may be either full-time, part-time, or in a home school division of the participating school. A formal relationship must exist between the student and the school, including payment of appropriate school fees, tuition, and ODACS dues. To participate in ODACS activities, part-time students and home school division students must be enrolled in the school and ODACS dues paid for all enrolled students (full-time, part-time, and home school division) when the school registration is submitted in the fall, unless the family of the part-time student or home school division student moves from outside the area (more than 20 miles) during the school year. [ODACS dues for a part-time student or home school division student who moves into the area during the school year must be paid at the time of enrollment.]
- For the Regional Competitions categories will be divided into three graded groups: Grades 4-6, Level I - Elementary; Grades 7-9, Level II - Junior High; Grades 10-12, Level III - Senior High.
- For State Competition categories will be divided into two graded groups: Grades 7-9, Level II - Junior High; Grades 10-12, Level III - Senior High.
- Students in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade will be classified as Level II. However, they also have the following options.
  - Level III Group Competition – A 9<sup>th</sup> grade student may compete in one or more Level III group events provided that he does not compete in the same group event in Level II.
  - Level III Individual Competition – A 9<sup>th</sup> grade student may compete in Level III in any or in all of the individual events that he enters. A student who exercises this option may not compete in the same Level II individual event and may still compete *in only one category in each of the following three areas: Bible, Music, and Speech. Additionally student who exercises this option may compete in two Level III categories in Art and in two Level III categories in Academics.*
  - Within the same school 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are not required to all exercise the same option. Some may exercise their Level III Option while others do not.
  - Having competed at regional competition, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student may not change levels in any event, either as he advances to state competition or in order to be able to advance to national competition.

***Italicized entries indicate rule changes effective in the 2016 competition.***



- National Competition: Only Senior High students (grades 9-12) who won or placed in AACS certified state or regional competition may participate in the National Competition. However the grade requirement will be waived for the following exceptions: students in grades 7 and 8 may compete in Orchestra/Band and in Handbell/Handchime Choir. Students will be allowed to compete only if their school is currently a member of a state association that is in good standing with the AACS. See p. 76.
- For ODACS competitions, the same rules apply for 7-8 grade students' participation in Level III categories. For elementary and junior high competitions, students may move up one grade for any group competition; i.e., a third grader may compete in Elementary group categories, and a sixth grader may compete in Junior High group categories. Students in any grade may compete in the All School and Small School categories found in the Junior High manual. See p. 75 for more information.
- Students who move up to compete in any group competition may NOT compete in the corresponding group competition at their level; i.e., if a sixth grader sings in a Junior High Small Vocal Ensemble, he may not sing in an Elementary Small Vocal Ensemble.

### CLASSES OF COMPETITION

Two class distinctions shall be made in the categories of Youth Choir, Choral Group, Handbell/Handchime Choir, and Orchestra/Band. Youth Choirs will compete at the regional level only.

**Class A** ..... **60** or fewer students in grades 9-12.

**Class AA**..... **61** or more students in grades 9-12.

Two categories of ODACS competition are open only to "small schools," those with K-12 enrollment of 80 or fewer. The categories are "Small School Ensemble" and "Small School Choir." A trophy is given at state competition to the small school that wins the greatest number of points.

**Small School**.....**80** or fewer students in grades K-12.

### REGISTRATION

**Regional Competitions:** Forms for registering competitors for regional competitions will be sent by e-mail to all schools one month ahead of the competition date. These forms will also be posted on the ODACS web site. Registration fees are due on the day of competition.

**State Competition:** Level II and Level III winners at the regional competitions will be automatically registered for the State Competition. *Additionally, for any Regional category in which there were at least four entries, the second-place finisher will be automatically registered for State Competition.* A form will be provided to each school for calculating appropriate fees which are due on the day of competition.

**National Competition:** Registration must be completed in accordance with the instructions provided by the AACS National Office. Failure to submit the appropriate registration forms by the indicated deadline may result in disqualification. Entry fees and board fees will be determined annually.

### ELIGIBILITY OF ENTRIES

The same entry (i.e., music composition, speech manuscript, art entry, science fair project, sermon, or Bible teaching lesson) which placed at the regional level must be entered in the state competition. Also, the same entry which placed at the state level must be entered in National Competition. Additionally, each entry must remain in the same category as it advances from Regional Competition to State Competition and from State Competition to National Competition. See "General Rules" of each area for additional eligibility requirements.

### LIMITATION OF CONTESTANTS

Competition is divided into five areas: Bible, Music, Speech, Art, and Academics. In individual competition a student may enter one category in *each* of the following *three* areas: Bible, Music, and Speech. In addition, a Level I or a Level II student may enter one category in Art *and one or two categories in Academics*. A Level III student may enter one or two categories in Art *and one or two categories in Academics*. *However, no student may enter both writing categories or both Science Fair categories.*

Example: A student may enter Sacred Piano Solo, Declamation, English Testing, Spelling, Calligraphy, and People and Animal Photography.

Example: A student may enter Expository Preaching, Vocal Solo, Humorous Interpretation, Old Testament Bible Knowledge, Advanced Mathematics, Monochromatic Drawing, and Sculpture.

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This rule applies only to individual competition. A student may enter group competition in addition to the individual categories.

Note: Students entering debate may encounter irreconcilable scheduling conflicts and should give consideration to limiting their total number of competition categories.

## **AWARDS**

### **Regional Competition**

- Ribbons will be awarded for all first-, second-, and third-place individual winners. Ribbons will be presented to the schools for all first-, second-, and third-place group events (bands, choirs, ensembles, etc.).
- Elementary Regional Trophy: Elementary students do not compete at State Competition. A Regional trophy is awarded to the school that tabulates the most elementary points. Elementary points also count in other regional awards. Each first-place finish earns 3 points, second-place earns 2 points, and third-place earns 1 point.
- A regional first-, second-, and third-place trophy will be awarded to the schools that tabulate the most points based upon computation of total awards won by individual and group competitors in all grades from that school. Each first-place finish earns 3 points, second-place earns 2 points, and third-place earns 1 point.
- In some regions, a Percentage Trophy will be given to the school that has the highest ratio of points earned by students in grades 4-12. Winners of the first-, second-, and third-place trophies cannot qualify for the Percentage Trophy. Each first-place finish earns 3 points, second-place earns 2 points, and third-place earns 1 point.

### **State Competition**

A trophy is awarded for the first-place individual winners; all second- and third-place individual winners receive ribbons. Groups receive a trophy or ribbons for their school. A rotating Championship Trophy is given to the first-place school. Second- and third-place schools each receive a trophy. Each first-place finish earns 3 points, each second-place finish earns 2 points, and each third-place finish earns 1 point. A Small School Trophy is given to the school with 80 or fewer students which accumulates the most points. Percentage and Percentage Runner-Up Trophies are also awarded based on enrollment in grades 7-12.

### **National Competition**

Awards will be given for first, second, and third place. The State Association which receives the most points (3 points for first, 2 points for second, and 1 point for third) will be awarded the AACS Cup of Excellence.

## **ODACS JUDGES, REGIONAL AND STATE**

Competent and knowledgeable judges are the key to our success. It is the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator to appoint three to five judges from different schools for each category. The Coordinator should get judges committed as soon as possible and confirm them with follow-up communication. The Coordinator should impress upon the judges the necessity of knowing the rules and should be sure they have a written copy of rules. All judges must meet the following criteria:

1. Judges must be born again, fundamental, Bible-believing Christians.
2. Judges must have a major or minor in the field they judge, or be presently serving or have served in the area they will be judging.
3. Judges must conform to the dress and conduct code.
4. For each set of judges, every effort must be made to use no more than one judge from each school, and judges are required to meet in a pre-competition judges' meeting.
5. Any exception to the above must be approved by the Regional Coordinator or by the Executive Director prior to competition.

## **ODACS APPEAL PROCESS**

1. All student complaints are to be voiced through a faculty advisor to the judges. A majority of judges will make the final decision.
2. Faculty advisors may appeal to the Division Coordinator.
3. Appeal may be made ultimately to the Regional Coordinator.

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4. If necessary, ultimate decisions will be rendered by the Executive Director.
5. All appeals must be made through the appropriate channels. In the event the protesting school is from the same school as the Division or Regional Coordinator, that individual must decline to render judgment and request the next higher level of authority to render judgment.

### STATE COORDINATOR

The State Competition Coordinator serves as a liaison between the AACS Competition Director and the State Association. It will be the responsibility of the State Competition Coordinator to certify the eligibility of each student entered from his state. He will also be responsible to secure the registration for those students who qualify from his state in the National Competition.

### TIME LIMITATION AND DISQUALIFICATION

Students will be penalized substantially for going overtime or under time in any category of competition where time limits are established.

**National Competition Policies:** When a student violates his time limit by more than one minute, the student will be disqualified. Example: if the limit is 8-10 minutes, then the student will be disqualified if he goes over one full minute or under one full minute. However, if he is overtime or under time by less than one minute, points or a fraction of a point will be deducted which will prevent an otherwise first-place winner from placing first, a second-place winner from placing second, or a third-place winner from placing third. (Exception: The time limit for an academic *category* cannot exceed *the time stated in the instructions*.)

**ODACS Competition Policies:** At ODACS competitions, for any category where time limits are established, competitors will be penalized for time violations as follows:

1. No Penalty will be assessed if the competitor or group is over or under by five seconds or fewer. (This allows for minor inaccuracies in time pieces or minor errors by the time keeper.)
2. Automatic penalties of 2 points for violations of 5-15 seconds and of one additional point for each 15-second increment (or portion thereof) after that will be assessed. These penalties will be assessed by the ODACS Tally Office and will be deducted from each judge's score.
3. For Level III only, a competitor or group will be disqualified for going more than one minute overtime or more than one minute under time.

### DRESS AND CONDUCT CODE

All students must be observing competition or in designated areas when not competing or otherwise obligated. This will help eliminate supervision problems.

ODACS and AACS feel that our competitions should have the highest standards of competition and Christian testimony. Therefore, all participating students and adult sponsors are expected to respect and adhere to the following standards.

#### The Dress Code

Girls and ladies must wear skirts or dresses that reach the middle of the knee or longer, and necklines may not be exceedingly low or open in the front or back. No slacks or shorts may be worn on the host campus.

Boys and men will wear neat shirts with a collar, tucked in, and dress pants. Hair should be short, off the collar and ears, one inch above the eyebrows, tapered in the back, combed, with no long sideburns. No beards or mustaches will be permitted for students. Jeans are not to be worn on the host campus.

*For all students, no tattoos or worldly body piercings may be visible during any ODACS competition.*

#### National Awards Program

Appropriate dress for the evening awards programs includes the following: Boys/men: dress pants, dress shirt with collar and tie, and preferably with a sport coat or suit; Girls/ladies: Sunday-type dress outfit and dress shoes.

#### The Conduct Code

Conduct of students is expected to meet the standard of believers in I Timothy 4:12. Patience, kindness, and

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good sportsmanship are the exemplary rule to follow at all times for all students, sponsors, parents, and visitors. Insubordination or disruptive behavior by any student, sponsor, parent, or visitor toward any judge or competition official will not be tolerated. Behavior that is not becoming to a Christian will be grounds for expulsion from the campus. Any student or sponsor who fails to meet the standards of the Dress or Conduct Code may be disqualified.

### PHOTOCOPIED MUSIC

The following legal opinion is in response to the question, “Is it a violation of the copyright law to make a reproduction of a copyrighted composition solely for use during competition conducted by a state or national Christian school association?”

“Generally, any reproduction of a copyrighted work is an infringement of the rights of the copyright owner and subjects the person so reproducing to civil liabilities. However, among the exceptions of this general rule is the ‘fair use’ doctrine set forth in Section 107, Title 17 of the United States Code. Basically, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including reproduction for purposes such as ‘criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom), for scholarship or research is not an infringement of copyright.”

“Although the standards for determining fair use are not specific, and each case is decided on its own facts, we believe that the reproduction of a single composition for use in AACS competition would not constitute a copyright infringement since the purpose would be for criticism, comment, teaching or scholarship and is for nonprofit educational purposes.”

Based upon the legal opinion stated above, ODACS requires the following.

1. For all categories requiring memorization, one original composition must be present at the competition. It may be used by the accompanist for categories requiring an accompanist. Copies given to the judges may be photocopied to enable the judges to make written comments.
2. For group competition not requiring memorization, all students and the accompanist (if applicable) must have access to an original composition. Copies given to the judges may be photocopied to enable the judges to make written comments.
3. Music competitors in all categories must supply three (3) composition copies to the judges at Regional Competition and five (5) composition copies to the judges at State Competition.
4. If the contestant is using digital sheet music or something similar printed from an online download, he/she will need to provide proof of purchase or a “permission to use letter” with the music.
5. Level III contestants advancing to nationals must be sure to note that the AACS policies are different from ODACS policies. Please study the AACS manual and be prepared to abide by the national competition policies.

### JUDGING FORMS

For ODACS competition, each contestant must use the 2016-2020 forms included in this manual. Judging forms for ODACS competition will also be available online at [www.vaodacs.com](http://www.vaodacs.com).

ODACS Regional: Students must submit three ODACS judging forms. Use current forms with the ODACS logo.

ODACS State: Students must submit five ODACS judging forms for State competition. Use current forms with the ODACS logo.

AACS Nationals: Students competing in a category requiring judging forms must submit three completed judging forms for each round of competition. *There are no judging forms for Bible Memory, Spelling, and Academic Testing categories. In areas where second rounds are called, AACS will provide judging forms for the second round.* Students must use the AACS judging forms from the National Competition Manual (2015 Edition).

### BIBLE USAGE

ODACS & AACS will use the KJV Hardback Bible, ISBN #978-1-56320-654-2, for judging Bible competition categories. The King James Version will be the only authorized translation used in any competition category.

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING POLICY

No flash photography can be used during competition. The video recording of a single entry by representatives

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of the participant's school for personal use is permitted. The video recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in an event without permission from the school(s) involved is prohibited. No video recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes. Additionally, no video recording is permitted in the Spelling and Bible Quizzing categories.

### **FIRST-PLACE TIES AT STATE COMPETITION**

Ties are not broken at regional competitions. If two or more competitors tie for first place, both or all are allowed to proceed to the state competition. At the state competition, ties for places other than first are not broken, but first-place ties must be broken. In objective testing categories, first-place ties are broken by regional test scores. If the tie cannot be broken by regional scores, the tied competitors must take a tie-breaking test. For judged categories, the following procedures apply:

1. The ordinal rankings of the judges will be used first to break the tie, *utilizing rankings for all competitors in the category.*
2. If any competitors remain tied, the same panel of judges will be assembled again. If the category is a performance category, the tied competitors will perform again.
3. If #2 does not produce a winner, the lowest judge's scores will be dropped, and scores will be compared.
4. If #3 does not produce a winner, the highest judge's scores will be dropped, and scores will be compared.
5. If none of the above procedures produces a winner, a new panel of judges must be selected, and the tied competitors must perform again.

### **COMPETITION ANNUAL UPDATE**

*This manual will govern competition until a new manual is adopted by ODACS. It is intended that the current manual will cover competition for five years (spring of 2016 through spring of 2020), at which time a new manual will be adopted. However, in order to correct errors that may be discovered within the manual, a document will be produced by the ODACS office and will be posted on the ODACS website. The **Competition Annual Update will be posted on the ODACS website and any changes noted therein will govern the competition.** School leadership should **review the annual update and FAQs and inform** students, teachers, coaches, parents, and others of any changes.*

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### POINT DEDUCTIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR ODACS COMPETITIONS

Most areas of a competitor's performance are covered by categories on judging forms. However, some competition rules are not covered by judging forms, and questions arise regarding penalties and disqualifications. Penalties or disqualifications for rules violations not covered by judging forms are recommended by judges and determined by the competition director. Penalty points are deducted from each judge's score. The guidelines for these penalties follow: (These penalties are for ODACS competitions only and are not the standards used for AACS National Competition.)

\*Work that, in content or style, is not in harmony with stated standards but does not merit disqualification .....-4 points

**Art** - Disqualification: All violations that are stated as disqualifications, *plus* the following:

	Level I	Level II	Level III
Artwork not the original creation of the participant	DQ	DQ	DQ
Artwork not created since the previous year's competition	DQ	DQ	DQ
Use of commercial plans when prohibited by rules	DQ	DQ	DQ
Works that are outside maximum or minimum sizes	-2	-4	DQ
Wrong category (obvious misplacement)	-3	DQ	DQ
No judging forms	-2	-4	DQ
Only one judging form/forms not completely filled out	-2	-3	-4
No matting of two-dimensional work (Level III only)	NA	NA	-2
Statement of originality not signed	-2	-3	-4
No artist's idea statement (Level III only)	NA	NA	-3
No plan, pattern, or mold when required	-2	-3	-4
Other violations of manual instructions	-1	-2	-3

**Music** - Disqualification: All violations that are stated as disqualifications, *plus* the following:

	Level I	Level II	Level III
Use of percussion or electronic amplification unless allowed	DQ	DQ	DQ
Use of accompaniment other than live piano	DQ	DQ	DQ
Selections of a type not listed in Music General Rule #6	DQ	DQ	DQ
Selections of the styles listed in Music General Rule #7	DQ	DQ	DQ
Failure to present original copy (copies) of music to judges	DQ	DQ	DQ
Failure to memorize music when required	-3	DQ	DQ
Any choreography, planned or unnecessary bodily movement	-3	-4	-5
Failure to present judges with 3 or 5 complete copies of music	-2	-3	-4
Measures not all numbered or inaccurately numbered	-2	-3	-4
Any deviations from music not noted on the music	-3	-4	-5
Stopping and Starting Again (per incident)	-1	-2	-3
Other violations of manual instructions	-2	-3	-4

**Speech** - Disqualification: All violations that are stated as disqualifications in the manual.

	Level I	Level II	Level III
No script	-4	-5	-6
Only one copy of script	-1	-2	-3
Wrong category (obvious misplacement)	-2	-3	-4
Stopping and Starting Again (per incident)	-1	-2	-3
Other violations of manual instructions	-2	-3	-4

**Bible Teaching/Preaching** - Disqualification: All violations that are stated as disqualifications in the manual.

	Level I	Level II	Level III
No outline	-4	-5	-6
Only one copy of outline	-1	-2	-3
Other violations of manual instructions	-2	-3	-4

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