Orange County Department of Education
Educational and Student Services Division

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County Superintendent of Schools

Orange County Academic Decathlon

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Authority

In order to ensure the integrity of the Orange County Academic Decathlon program, a strict code of conduct will be enforced by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). Cheating, in any form, will not be tolerated and immediate action will be taken if it should occur. All Decathlon students must agree to perform on all tests in a manner consistent with the highest standards of honesty and integrity and to comply with all program rules, whether testing at school or the competition site. It is the sole responsibility of the Decathlon coach to ensure that each student participant knows, understands, and agrees to this Academic Integrity Policy.

Proctors will oversee testing for Academic Decathlon student participants and will report any incidents of testing misconduct to the Academic Decathlon competition manager. Student participants who are witness to or aware of efforts to violate this Academic Integrity policy must notify the coach or proctor immediately.

All violations will be reviewed by the Academic Decathlon competition manager and final sanctions regarding the violation will be decided by the Academic Events staff at OCDE. This policy extends to participation in the statewide California Academic Decathlon competition and the national United States Academic Decathlon competition.

Academic Integrity Violations

Academic dishonesty may include, but is not limited to, the following:

► Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, information or study aids during academic competition. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- Using notes, resource guides, books, artificial intelligence (A.I.), or other online resources/software programs during testing
- Looking at another student's testing materials or computer screen
- Using electronic or smart devices, such as cell phones, calculators, computers, and tablets, or accessing the internet
- Working on the test before or after the allotted time
- Tampering with testing materials by way of receiving, intercepting, or removing tests from testing rooms
- Having advance knowledge or possession of a test or testing materials prior to an exam
- Helping or attempting to aid another student to violate any part of this Academic Integrity Policy
- Talking to or communicating with another person during testing to give or receive help on the test
- Taking photos of questions on the computer screen or in the test booklet

Academic Integrity Sanctions

If it is determined that an Academic Decathlon student participant has committed any of the violations listed above, scores for that student will be nullified. If it is determined that a coach has committed any of the violations listed above, team scores will be nullified. Further sanctions may be determined at the discretion of OCDE staff. Schools and/or the state and national Academic Decathlon programs may impose sanctions for violations of local academic integrity policies beyond those listed in this policy.