

# Code of Conduct for California North Odyssey of the Mind Coaches

## Preamble

- California North Odyssey of the Mind (NorCal OotM) requires that all coaches observe the highest standards of professional ethics.
- The code presents guidelines for coach conduct and outlines the obligations of NorCal coaches.
- Ethical conduct is not a passive process, but requires you to make conscious choices and decisions. A few basic guidelines to keep in mind:
  - Always act with respect and sportsmanship.
  - Never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
  - Always treat others in a courteous and professional manner regardless of their gender, ability, or cultural background.

## Basic Standard of Conduct

- As a NorCal coach, I believe that it is my duty to promote important life skills and the development of good character. I believe that essential elements of character-building are embodied in the concepts of respect and sportsmanship.
  - **Respect:** I will treat all people, including team members, parents, and officials with respect all the time and will require the same of my team. I will use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem, and foster a love and appreciation for the program. I will encourage team members to pursue victory with honor, to think and compete as a team, and to do their best. I will discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the competition than upon effort, teamwork, and character.
  - **Sportsmanship:** I will be a good sport by demonstrating support of all NorCal teams, coaches, and officials at practices and tournaments. I will remember that NorCal is operated by committed volunteers who will always try to act in the best interest of team members, and I will support those volunteers and understand that their time and effort is important to all team members.

## Conduct Within California Odyssey of the Mind

- I understand that in my position as a Calomer coach, I must act in accord with the following code:
  - **Training:** I understand that I am responsible for all information passed along at a NorCal coaches' training session. I understand that all necessary training information is also available on the NorCal website. [www.norcalodyssey.org](http://www.norcalodyssey.org).
  - **Knowledge:** I will maintain a thorough knowledge of the competition rules as outlined in the current year's "Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide" which is available through my membership contact person or on the web at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com). I will also maintain a thorough understanding of the rules outlined by my specific problem, including any team-generated or public clarifications. I understand that it is my responsibility to assure that my team members know and understand the rules as well.
  - **Outside Assistance:** I will not participate in or knowingly allow Outside Assistance as outlined in the Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide. I understand that by allowing Outside Assistance, it takes away from the team's ownership of their solution. I understand that if I provide, or allow someone else to provide Outside Assistance to any team member, I will either (1) adversely affect the potential success of the team's solution because they must disclose the assistance on the Outside Assistance Form which will result in penalty points or (2) I will cause each team member to lie when signing the Outside Assistance Form.

All coaches wishing to register a team at a California North Odyssey of the Mind regional or state competition are required to sign a code of conduct form. This form requires coaches to agree to abide by the "Code of Conduct for California North Odyssey of the Mind (NorCal OotM) Coaches".

I have read this "Code of Conduct for NorCal Coaches" and agree to abide by it while serving as a California North Odyssey of the Mind coach at this year's Regional, State, and World competitions.

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_