



# Coaches' Corner

## Tips from your CTOM Coach!

February 2021

*Preparing skillful, team-playing, out-of-the-box thinkers!*

# Time to Register for the CTOM Competition!

By Kim Kempton

If you have not already done so, it is time to register your team for the 2021 CTOM Virtual Competition.

**The deadline to register for the CTOM state finals tournament is February 27th, 2021.** For this year's virtual tournament teams do not have to provide a judge or volunteer.

The registration fee of \$135 – 40% off our usual fee in celebration of CTOM's 40th anniversary – is due by March 13th. We can't wait to see all that teamwork and creativity on display!

Teams who selected either a Virtual or a Traditional Membership must register for the state tournament. Teams from both types of memberships will be solving the same problems with the same clarifications. Every team is guaranteed the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity in an official Odyssey of the Mind tournament.

Teams will be able to advance in competition and could ultimately earn their way to the Virtual World Finals!



### Virtual Team Resources

To compete in a virtual or online Odyssey of the Mind competition, teams will need to do the following:

- Register online
- Record the team's Long-Term Problem solution performance
- Prepare supporting documents and photographs for the judging teams
- Submit the video, documents, and photographs online

[Virtual Tournament Procedures](#)

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### For More Information

CTOM is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to Odyssey of the Mind in CT. Please visit our website at [www.ctom.org](http://www.ctom.org)



# Planning for Competition!

This year's Virtual CTOM competition will be accompanied by excitement, emotion and (occasionally) drama. First, take a deep breath and pat yourself on the back. Your job is almost done! You have successfully delivered the team to the competition. Congratulations! Here are a few coaching suggestions to make sure that the online submission and spontaneous competition runs smoothly, and that the drama is limited to the performances.

## Create A Schedule

This year, all teams will be submitting their solutions virtually. This means you will have a window of time in which you can record and collect materials before uploading the final products to the website for the competition. Work with your team to determine any school assignments, family commitments or other time-sensitive activities that may impact team member availability.

Be sure to reserve blocks of time for practice, final recording, and completion of forms and support materials.

Deadline for ALL submissions is Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

## Your Online Submission

You will submit three web-links to the [Member's Area](#) of Odyssey of the Mind:

**Video Performance** - One video which includes an 8 minute performance and up to 7 minutes of explanation time

**Documents & Forms** - All documents/forms in a single file

**Photos** - Submit up to 10 pictures of the solution and 4 Style pictures, one for each Style category.

## Notes:

Use any file sharing service (Google Drive, One Drive, YouTube, etc.) and ensure your sharing settings allow anyone with the links to view them.

You can update your video and paperwork as often as needed, until the deadline.



## Plus... SPONTANEOUS

The 2021 CTOM Virtual Tournament will include a Verbal Spontaneous Challenge. Teams will be able to compete in the verbal problem anytime from March 20 – 28, after which judges will review the team's responses. The entire team may participate in solving the spontaneous challenge which will be administered online. During the competition window, the verbal problem will be accessed by logging into the Member's Area of [Odyssey of the Mind](#). Learn more and find practice problems log in [here](#).

## Receiving Your Scores

CTOM Judges will be reviewing all virtual submissions in the days following submission. Once judging is completed, the team will receive and review the scores similar to an in-person tournament. The Head Judge will notify the coach/team contact through email that the scores are available. The team has 48 hours after the email is sent to log in and view the scores and any comments from the judges through the Member's Area. If questions arise within that 48 hours, there is an area for the team to comment back. The Head Judge will then respond through the same online system.

### Competition Score Breakdown:

100	Spontaneous
200	Long-term
50	Style
350	<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b>

## Odyssey of the Mind Virtual World Finals

Stay tuned to our website and social media for 2021 World Finals details as they become available.

# Don't Forget the Forms

## When Do We Need Our Forms?

All Forms will be uploaded at the same time as your video presentation. The forms will be uploaded in the appropriate field of the Members's Area of our website. Just like at an in-person tournament, EVERY team is required to submit:

- A Style Form
- A Team List Form
- Outside Assistance Form (signed by all team members and coaches)
- Cost Form
- Copy of any TEAM SPECIFIC clarifications

Copies of all forms can be found [here](#).

## Do It with STYLE

Style is worth up to 50 points, so make sure the team gives this form the required attention. Each problem has two required elements, and two items of the team's choice. Draw attention to elements that are extremely creative but are not being scored as part of the long-term problem. The form also requires a paragraph that explains how well the 4 Style elements fit together and enhance the solution.

## Team List Form

The problem specific team list form simply helps the judging team know what to look for and provides a brief description of scored elements.

## Outside Assistance Form

This form is signed by the team members indicating they completed all parts of the skit themselves or stating the type of outside assistance that occurred.

## Cost Form

Only what is in the final solution is counted in the cost form. Group similar items into single cost lines (PVC, paint, fabric). Remember the three categories for items: cost, exempt, and assigned values. Be sure to have the team add up the cost and verify it meets the allowed amount for the problem solution. See [here](#) for more details regarding assigning cost.

## Virtual Tournament Procedures

Be sure to visit the [Virtual Tournament Procedures](#) to learn more about competing virtually, including registering, creating a team video and submitting the Long-term performance.

Check out the [Spon\\_Zone](#) section of our website for sample problems, team strategies and additional details. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact CTOM Spontaneous Problem Captain, [Dave Schaller](#).

# Photo Bomb and Ceremony

One of the favorite moments of our in-person tournament is when the auditorium lights go down, the music goes up and we get to cheer as images of CT OMers appear on the big screen! While we won't be able to share this moment in person, we still want to celebrate the journey and recognize our students for their hard work. Please submit photos (and videos) for consideration for inclusion in this year's Photo Bomb Video and Awards Video by sending attachments (or a link to a file sharing site) to [photos@ctom.org](mailto:photos@ctom.org).

This year's Awards Ceremony Video will include video highlights from our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams for each problem/division, as well as shout-outs to winners of our Jill Riggles Award for Excellence in Spontaneous, and highlights of any winners of the Omer and Ranatra Fusca Awards.

# Dates, Details & The Drill

**Saturday, February 27, 2021**  
[Tournament Registration Closes](#)

**Saturday, March 20, 2021**  
[CT State Tournament - Deadline to submit competition materials](#)

**Saturday, March 20 – Sunday, March 28, 2021**  
[Verbal Spontaneous Competition Window](#)

**Saturday, March 27, 2021 - Sunday, April 11, 2021**  
[Raw Scores for Long-Term Performances provided to Coaches. Coaches have 48 hours to respond.](#)

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**  
[Virtual Awards Presentation](#)

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**  
[Virtual World Finals Coaches Meeting](#)

**Partnership with KHK**  
Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind (CTOM) is pleased to announce a partnership with [Kids Helping Kids](#) a fellow 501(c)(3) organization focused on developing leadership skills through youth-led service projects. The new partnership enables interested students from across Connecticut to participate in the 2020-2021 Odyssey of the Mind program as members of teams representing KHK. Visit our website for further details.

Have questions or want to learn more? Contact our Coaches' Coach, Kim Kempton at [kkempton@ctom.org](mailto:kkempton@ctom.org)