

CTOM Coaching Workshop – January 11, 2025

Breakout Sessions

Think Like a Judge (Session 1, 9:00am-10:00am)

We will start this session by reviewing an old long-term problem and discussing strategies for *how* to read it most effectively. Coaches will learn about different Odyssey terminology (e.g. “the team **MUST**” vs. “the team **MAY**”). Afterwards, we will view a solution to the aforementioned problem and discuss how we would score it. By thinking like judges, we will work collaboratively to understand how the long-term problem is scored. (*Note for coaches who have taken this workshop before: The problem analyzed during the workshop is the same one that has been used in prior years.*)

It's All About Style (Session 1, 9:00am-10:00am)

What exactly is style, and how does my team score highly in it? In this class, coaches will learn the do's and don'ts for style. We will discuss ways to make the team's solution more unique, how to select the best items for scoring, and strategies for most effectively filling out the style form. Since every point counts, you don't want to miss this one!

Coaching Spontaneous (Session 2, 10:05am-11:05am)

Though it is worth half as much as the long-term solution, spontaneous, time and time again, plays a major role in teams' final placement at competition. Coaches will learn about the various types of problems, identify strategies for success, and participate in a number of practice problems. In addition, coaches will reflect on these practice problems and, in doing so, think about spontaneous problems from the perspective of team members and judges.

There's No "I" in Team (Session 2, 10:05am-11:05am)

One of the most important factors behind any team's success is how well the members can collaborate. Working together is easier said than done, of course, as a number of factors can impact group dynamics. What should you do when team members disagree? How do you resolve conflicts? What happens when you have a team member who has very specific needs? We will address these questions and more in this workshop. If you want to learn about fostering effective teamwork, this session is for you!

Experienced Coach Panel (Session 3, 11:10am-12:10pm)

No matter how thorough any training session is, there is a very distinct possibility that you still will have a number of lingering questions. This breakout session is your opportunity to ask anything about Odyssey that you have on your mind. We will have a panel of coaches with extensive experience available to address any and all questions or concerns that you have. Come ready to engage in a dialogue with other coaches.

Problem Captain Meetings (Session 4, 12:15pm-12:45pm)

Meet with the problem captain (PC) and assistant problem captain (APC) for whichever problem your team is solving! This is a chance to debrief on the training and learn about the logistics of tournament day. Please note that you will *not* go over the problem with your PC/APC; specific questions regarding an interpretation of the problem should be submitted online as clarifications.