Rules for Participation in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

1. All students who take the USNCO national examination MUST BE U.S. CITIZENS or LEGAL, PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES (GREEN CARD HOLDERS) on the day it is taken.

2. High school students regularly enrolled in the U.S. school system for more than one year, and who will graduate no earlier than the spring of a present year are eligible.

3. Students must be younger than 20 years old.

4. No more than two students per teacher or per high school may be nominated to take the national exam. In the case of magnet programs or split enrollment, students’ school is defined as the high school where students take science class.

5. Eligible students who have previously attended the study camp automatically qualify for the national exam and do not count against the limit on number of eligible students from their local section or school.

6. Winners of gold medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad are not eligible to compete in subsequent USNCO study camps. Winners of silver or bronze medals are eligible to return and automatically qualify for the national exam; they do not count against the limit on number of eligible students from their local section or school.

7. Students who have taken advanced placement courses in chemistry are eligible

8. A student may participate only in the competition of the section in which the student’s high school is located. If the section is not participating, the USNCO national office will assign the student to a section.

9. A student who participates in the Physics Olympiad study camp, the Mathematics Olympiad study camp, or the Biology Olympiad study camp is not eligible to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad study camp during the same summer.

* These rules apply to students taking the USNCO national examination. Local sections are encouraged to develop their own procedures for identifying outstanding students at the local level and choosing national examination candidates. The sections are reminded, however, that all students who take the national exam must meet the qualifications outlined above.