

Oliphant Science Awards – Judging Code of Conduct

The Oliphant Science Awards are built on the professionalism and generosity of our volunteer judges. This Code of Conduct sets out the expectations to ensure that judging remains fair, respectful and consistent, and that all decisions are upheld once made.

Principles

- All entries are to be judged fairly and independently against the published criteria.
- Judging discussions are collaborative, respectful and focused on reaching consensus.
- Once decisions are made, they are final and must be honoured.

As a judge, you agree to:

- Assess entries objectively and without bias.
- Respect the professional views of your fellow judges, even if they differ from your own.
- Contribute constructively to discussions and avoid undue pressure or coercion on others to change their evaluations.
- Accept and uphold the final decisions of the judging group.
- Refrain from revisiting or disputing prize decisions after judging has concluded, including during OSA Open Days or with SASTA staff.
- Keep all judging discussions and outcomes confidential until officially announced.
- Declare any conflict of interest and step aside from judging those entries.

Head judges

- Head judges are there to provide advice, guidance and to facilitate the judging process.
- Their role is not to determine outcomes or impose their own preferences above the views of the judging panel.
- All final decisions must reflect the collective judgement of the judging team.

SASTA and the OSA Committee will:

- Provide clear judging guidelines and support.
- Facilitate fair and respectful judging discussions.
- Honour the decisions of judges as final, unless an administrative error has occurred.
- Address any breaches of this Code promptly and appropriately.

Why this matters

Your role as a judge helps uphold the integrity and reputation of the Oliphant Science Awards. By following this Code, we ensure a positive experience for students, staff, and fellow judges, and celebrate science in the spirit it deserves.

