

Science Talent Search 2016 Rules

All entrants and entries must follow the Rules of STS. Students are encouraged to check with their teachers or a supervisor to ensure project work falls within the rules.

1. Judges' decision

The judges' decisions are final. Entries ruled as falling outside the 'Rules of Science Talent Search', will be ineligible for any awards except a participation certificate. Entries ruled as not conforming to the Guidelines for each category (Research Investigations, Science Communication, Engineering), such as the incorrect format, presentation or breaches of ethical or safety requirements, will also be ineligible for any award except a participation certificate. These entries **will not** be judged.

*It is a requirement that a **Risk Assessment Form** is completed for all entries, except Science Posters.* Students should complete this form themselves prior to conducting their experiment, and it should be signed by their supervisor. Entries that don't include a **Risk Assessment Form** will be ineligible for any awards except a participation certificate. A copy of this form can be downloaded from the STAWA Website www.stawa.net.

2. Registration

Entry into the STAWA Science Talent Search is free of charge.

School registration

To register your school and STS School Coordinator online, follow the link on the STAWA website www.stawa.net. All correspondence, including student entry forms, will be sent to the STS School Coordinator.

*Only registered schools will be able to submit entries. Registration opens on **Monday 4 April** and closes on **Friday 1 July**.*

Registration of entries for final judging

It is expected that schools will select entries for final judging. All participants from schools, even those who are not selected for final judging, are eligible to receive a participation certificate.

*Schools must register students selected for **final judging** by **Friday 22 July**. No late registrations will be accepted.*

3. Maximum Number of Entries

To promote Science Talent Search as a competition involving the best of student work, the maximum number of entries accepted from each school will depend on the number of judges that school provides to help with the competition. *Schools that submit more than 10 entries will need to nominate the appropriate number of judges when registering the final entries for judging. The number of entries judged per school will depend on the number of judges provided.*

1 – 10 entries, judge optional, but appreciated.

11 – 20 entries, the school must supply one judge.

21 – 40 entries, the school must supply two judges and so on.

Teachers interested in judging entries for the STS should register their interest on the STAWA website www.stawa.net. *Registration for judges opens on **Monday 1 August**.*

4. Entry groupings

Entries within each category will be judged following entry groupings outlined on the previous page. A student can only enter one grouping. When students from different groupings work together, the grouping of the oldest student will be taken as the grouping for the whole entry.

For example, when students from Year 4 and Year 5 work together, the grouping is taken as Years 5-6.

5. Naming and Ownership.

An entry can be the work of an individual student, or a group of students. A group of students can consist of up to FOUR students, however, entries of more than THREE students are not eligible for entry into the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards. An entry must be the work of the student/s whose name/s appears on the entry.

- **Each entry should include the full name of the students involved and the full name of the school**
- **Make sure the student and school names are spelt correctly** as this information is used to generate certificates.
- Entries from previous years cannot be re-entered.

6. Assistance

- Limited assistance from supervisor/s is permitted, especially in the area of advice, safety and suggestions. Any direct 'hands on' assistance is not permitted under the rules of STS.
- It should be clear to the judges that the student has done all the work. Supervisors should be prepared to attest to this on request.
- Assistance may be sought from institutions other than the school such as universities, technical colleges, etc. This help should be limited to assistance with equipment, advice or other resources as the supervisor sees fit and must not contravene Rules 7 or 8.
- Students must acknowledge any assistance they receive.

7. Security and Collection.

The STAWA accepts no responsibility for the security of entries, although every effort will be made to look after them. Valuable items must not be submitted and students must keep appropriate copies of any material they submit.

Finalist entries not being forwarded to other competitions will be delivered to schools by mail or in person during Term Four. Entries that are forwarded to other competitions will be delivered to schools when they have been returned to STAWA.

8. Permission for the use of the entry for promotional purposes.

Students submitting an entry agree to this work, in full or in part, being utilised for promotional purposes, which may include press releases, public displays and internet sites. The names of students and their schools will be removed from the student work. Photographs of students may also be used for promotional purposes. All finalists will be asked to complete a **Digital Release Form** for this purpose. This form is available on the STAWA Website (www.stawa.net).

9. Ethics.

STAWA is bound by the animal ethics code. As a general guide, any research which involves the use of animals (vertebrate or invertebrate) is unacceptable unless supervised by qualified scientist and conducted in the appropriate safe environment. A **Supervising Scientist Form** must be completed and included with the entry. A copy of this form is available from the STS website (www.stawa.net). Any entry, which, in the opinion of the judges, falls outside this rule, will not be judged.

Human subjects of any investigation must not be identifiable in the investigation, and signed permission must be obtained from each subject. An example of a **Human Subject Permission Form** can be downloaded from the STAWA website (www.stawa.net).

10. Safety

Any entry that, in the opinion of the judges, involves banned chemicals, procedures or materials, that is of danger or potential danger to the entrants or others, will not be judged. These are described in the 'Science Laboratory Manual' (2002, EDWA), which is available from the Department of Education Western Australia. Some of the banned procedures, chemicals and materials are listed below.

Supervisors and students must follow all standard safety precautions and avoid dangerous chemicals or actions. The use of the banned procedures* and materials* described below are permissible if done under the supervision of a qualified scientist and conducted in the appropriate safe environment. A **Supervising Scientist Form** must be completed and included with the entry.

Some of the banned procedures, chemicals and materials are listed below.

Banned Procedures*

The use of culture media, which encourages the growth of human pathogens (e.g. blood agar etc)

All procedures involving the use of human body fluids

The use of blood lancets and blood sampling

Sub culturing bacteria

Banned Chemicals

Amines

Aniline compounds

Cyanide compounds (with the exception of: ferrocyanides and ferricyanides)

'Captan' fungicide

Insecticides: 'DDT', 'Dieldrin' and 'Aldrin'

Banned Materials*

Any human tissue

Source www.rtg.wa.edu.au/safety/policies.htm

