

# Science Talent Search Rules - 2017

All entrants and entries must follow the Rules of the Science Talent Search. 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.

## 2. Registration

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

### School registration

To register your school and Science Talent Search School Coordinator online, follow the link on the STAWA website ([www.stawa.net](http://www.stawa.net)). All correspondence, including final registration information and entry labels, will be sent to the Science Talent Search School Coordinator.

Only registered schools will be able to submit entries. Registration **opens on Monday 13 March and closes on Friday 30 June**.

### Student registration for regional and 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 21 July**. No late registrations will be accepted. Entries into regional competitions are also required to register.

## 3. Maximum Number of Entries

To promote the 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 Science Talent Search should register their interest on the STAWA website ([www.stawa.net](http://www.stawa.net)).

Registration for judges opens on **Monday 31 July**.

## 4. Entry groupings

Entries within each category will be judged following the entry groupings outlined on page one. 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.

When registering entries ensure the full name of the students involved and the full name of the school are spelt correctly.

An entry must be the work of the student/s whose name/s are registered.

- When registering entries ensure the full name of the students involved and the full name of the school 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.

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.

Entries will be delivered to schools by mail or in person during Term Four.

## 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. Photographs of students may also be used for promotional purposes. All finalists will be asked to complete a Digital Release Form for this purpose. A copy of this form is available on the STAWA Website ([www.stawa.net](http://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](http://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](http://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. A complete list of banned substances is available on the STAWA website ([www.stawa.net](http://www.stawa.net)). 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](http://www.rtg.wa.edu.au/safety/policies.htm).

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 the form must 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](http://www.stawa.net)).