**SOP Addendum for Virtual Competition**

**of the 2021 Navy National**

**Academic, Athletic & Drill Championship**

**Produced 10 February 2021**

**1. Purpose:**

1. The purpose of this document is to provide additional information, regulations and procedures to the existing event SOP to transition the 2021 Navy National Academic, Athletic & Drill Championship event from a traditional on-site military competition to a competition that is hosted via video and submitted scores (herein referred to as “virtual competition”).

**2. General Event Overview:**

1. The virtual competition meet will parallel the conduct of the traditional competition and incorporate many of the same judging, and scoring requirement as past Navy National competitive events.
2. SNI will USPS Priority mail to every unit items needed to document athletics and academics (date to be determined and set by NJRORC HQ). This package will include the following: 1)16 SEALED copies of the 2021 Navy Nationals Academic Test (one extra), 2)16 blank bubble sheets (one extra), 3)Academic Test and other event administration pages to include policies & procedures, 4) Scoring sheets for all athletic events to write in times, counts, etc., 5) Information package for the Official Event Monitor for your school and 6) Self-addressed, stamped Priority MAIL Tyvek bag (to return all materials in).
3. **All events completed by the unit for scoring at the Navy Nationals competition and uploaded to the on-line scoring platform by mid-April at a time and date determined by NJROTC HQ.** Units MUST plan for weather, Spring Break, or other seen & unforeseen events to ensure their events are completed during this timeframe. Therefore, units should NOT wait until the last day(s) to complete these events for submission.
4. **To get the videos properly categorized, judged and turned around in a timely manner, all schools must work hard to make this happen by the date listed above.** Know that we will work extremely hard to fit any schedule inside that window that works for you BUT also know that we do not have unlimited days to make this happen.
5. **The Academic Test will be held on similar mid-April date to also be determined and distributed by NJROTC HQ.** Schools unable to take their test at these suggested times MUST confer with their Area Manager to discuss details and get approval for a new time slot.
6. All Academic Test Bubble sheets, athletic times /counts scoresheets **will be placed inside the Self-addressed, stamped Priority MAILTyvek bag and postmarked/mailed by the final deadline set by NJROTC HQ.**
7. **Each SNSI is STRONGLY encouraged to PHOTOCOPY EVERYTHING before mailing any materials to SNI for compilation. This will include the academic test bubble sheets (both sides); the run time sheets and the push/curl sheets.** Should something happen to your materials in the mail, these will be the only records of your competition without your back-ups.
8. Many teams that have the good fortune of being located in close proximity to each other have asked if they can get together and just have their events filmed competing “together” for simplicity. This is ***NOT ALLOWED*** because we are trying to have every school participate with the same background and environment. While two teams can compete at the same facility independently, n**o cheering throngs, just you doing your event(s).** In all cases however, ONLY your school may be participating at one time. (i.e., cannot have multiple teams racing together at the same time, etc.).
9. All costs to attend and what each team member will receive are fully outlined on the official Navy Nationals website: <http://navy.thenationals.net>
10. **The random starting draw regarding when the routines are seen by the judges and many other aspects of the event WILL STILL BE IN EFFECT**.
11. The detailed and very specific regulations on ALL of these events are found below under, “Competition Event Specifics”.
12. Obviously with a pandemic still in effect and many school districts operating under a variety of Covid protocols, slight modifications to accommodate school, county or state regulation will be expected. Any variances will be discussed in detail with the Area Manager(s) and NJROTC HQ to ensure fairness for all schools.
13. The structure of the NJROTC Nationals competition will remain basically unchanged from years past although no Unit Inspection will take place. Events held at the 2021 Virtual NJROTC Nationals are held in the following categories:

♦ **ACADEMIC EXAM** – **one event** – 1,500 point max - academic test (drafted by SNI/reviewed by NSTC)

♦ **DRILL PHASE EVENTS** – **five events:** Armed Platoon Basic Drill, Unarmed Platoon Basic Drill, Armed Platoon Exhibition, Unarmed Platoon Exhibition, Color Guard – 3,000 point max – 600 pts./event

♦ **ATHLETIC PHASE EVENTS** — **THREE events:** 1)Curl-ups (500 points), 2)Push-ups(500 points), 3)16 x 100-yd relay(500 points) – total points 1,500.

1. Complete scoring packages are to be posted on-line. Additionally, every school will receive their original scoresheets back with their competition items. These items are planned to ship on May 5th from SNI. Questions regarding scoring or score tabulation may be addressed by contacting SNI at our office.

**3. Competition Event Overview:**

1. Hosting a meet of this caliber with great care in a virtual format can only be accomplished in an even-handed and meaningful way with teams working hard to compete *within the rules*. Substitution of non- cadets in events will not be tolerated. Many events will require videotaping and submission of such footage.
2. For each event of this competition, units must have a designated monitor, This monitor must be non-partisan and approved by your Area Manager.
3. As this virtual meet is designed as a “you get one shot” just like at a traditional meet, only for the most egregious & unforeseen circumstances would a team be permitted to execute a phase of this competition a second time. **This call would be made ONLY by an event monitor in concert with an Area Manager**. All events will require a “monitor” or other non-partisan overseer to verify the one shot concept. These and many other points of emphasis within the new format will be contained herein. Please read, understand, and act in accordance with the letter and the spirit of all rules written.
4. **ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY PHASE OF THE COMPETITION MUST FIRST BE DIRECTED TO YOUR AREA MANAGER**! If the Area Manager feels this answer or information would best be shared to all schools, he will coordinate the information with NJROTC program staff and SNI for concurrence.

**4. Competition Event Specifics:**

1. Event procedures will follow the existing manual as written in every relevant case. However, the following modification will be put in place to accommodate the new event format:
   1. **UNIT PERSONNEL INSPECTION**:
      1. NO Unit Personnel Inspection event will be maintained during this competition.
      2. **All competing units will receive a maximum score** for this event when factoring for the overall title competition. No trophies will be awarded.
   2. **ACADEMIC EXAM**:
      1. The test is unchanged from the current SOP specs.
      2. The Academic Test will attempt to be held on the same date and time across the nation for the majority of schools. Schools needing a variece on this can do so through their Area Manager.
      3. **We expect all schools to STRESS TO THEIR ACADEMIC TEAM CADETS to keep a complete blanket on test information once the test is completed by your school**.
      4. SNI will ensure all items needed to administer the test are received by the schools at least 5 business days in advance of their anticipated test day.
      5. Upon receipt by the unit, the SNSI will be responsible for: 1)opening the package, 2)verifying the contents are correct, and ensuring all policies & procedures are in place to correctly administer the test. **Of course, these materials MUST be treated like any other exam and must be secured to ensure no other persons are permitted to see any of the Academic Tests.**
      6. When the test is completed within the parameters outlined within the event SOP and this SOP addendum, all tests are collected and readied for shipment to event manager SNI in the pre-labeled Priority Mail envelope by the program.
      7. The SNSI should photocopy the front and back of every bubble sheet prior to mailing. These copies should be retained by the unit until on-line confirmation shows the receipt of the original bubble sheets by SNI.
   3. **SHUTTLE RELAY EVENT**:
      1. These events will be modified over what is performed on-site at the traditional Navy event.
      2. The following items are in place for BOTH the OVAL and the SHUTTLE relays:
         1. All runners must be identified and cleared by the monitor on-site to ensure correct uniform attire & running footwear, as well as total cadets present and correct gender numbers are maintained.
         2. The event may be run on a standard football field, athletic track or any expansive surface deemed safe and can meet the layout requirements of the event. The monitor will check the distance of the race as well as the passing zones have the 10-yard zones in place.
         3. The team will do a F.O.D. walk on the running areas just prior to the race to ensure safe conditions are present.
         4. The start and finish line for the event will be located at the same position.
         5. No pacing or racing another team is permitted – it is JUST YOUR TEAM on the track/field while you are being monitored and timed.
         6. The passing zone must be marked just as outlined with 100-yd racing distance and the 10-yard passing zone clearly identified. A large orange traffic cone or similar will be required to clearly denote the start and end of the two passing zones (and therefore, the 100-yd running zone). The team will designate and the monitor will approve a single person to watch the far-side passing zone for any penalties or violations.
         7. The race starter will position themselves on the front of the passing zone in the field of vision of the lead runner. He will start the race by giving a simple and standard “RUNNER ON YOUR MARKS:…..”GET SET”…….”GO”! command.
         8. The race will have TWO stopwatches (clocks) used to time the race. The official race starter will have one clock. The monitor will have the other clock. The official time will start when the official starter shouts, “GO”. The time will end when all members of the team have carried the baton in the prescribed manner and the baton is held by the final team member while crossing the finish line.
         9. Safety is to be stressed by all involved. While this distance is certainly not overly strenuous, hydration and cadet support/evaluation should be maintained at all times.
   4. **PUSH-UP/CURL-UP:**
      1. These events will be modified more heavily than what is performed on-site at the traditional Navy Nationals.
      2. The following items are in place for BOTH the PUSH-UPS and the CURL-UPS:
         1. All participating cadets must be identified and cleared by the monitor on-site to ensure correct uniform attire, as well as total cadets present and correct gender numbers are maintained.
         2. The monitor will verify all cadet names are correct (and make appropriate changes) on the scoring sheets received by SNI.
         3. Adherence to all event regs maintained in the event SOP regarding correct execution of push-ups will be expected. The monitor on site has the power and the responsibility to serve as the on-site judge for disallowing incorrect push-ups as outlined within this event SOP. **The monitor needs to be familiar with this SOP. The monitor must ensure push-ups and curl ups are done correctly and in cadence. The monitor can warn a cadet once for not maintaining form or cadence, after that the monitor must tap the person out. The word of the monitor is FINAL on push-up & curl-up counts.**
         4. The location of the Push-up and Curl-up area MAY BE INSIDE OR OUTSIDE. This will be YOUR CALL. Regardless, the area must be a smooth, flat surface generally considered fair and conducive for this activity by the on-site monitor. Those choosing to do this inside may use a towel, low-pile carpet or very low-profile (1” or less”) matting to cushion the cadets should they desire.
         5. The team will do a F.O.D. walk on all physical activity areas prior to the competition race to ensure safe conditions are present (if applicable).
         6. The standard cadence audio played during the Pensacola Nationals will be required to be played during your performance. Each cadet will execute their activity in cadence as prescribed within the event SOP. (This file can be directly downloaded from the website at <http://www.thenationals.net/nn-cadence.htm> )
         7. Cadets may perform EIGHT at a time, in a manner that is easy for the single judge to watch both performers at the same time. A trusted cadet or other individual connected to the program will be the counter of correctly done push-ups/curl-ups and will work with the monitor to ensure all correctly done efforts are counted. A JROTC instructor will be on hand to immediately record the number of correctly done push-ups / curl-ups for each competitor from the counting cadets and then sign the official form. The monitor will watch for form breaks, etc. and will ensure only correctly done push-up/curl-ups are counted by their cadet counters.
         8. Safety is to be stressed by all involved. While this activity is certainly not overly strenuous, hydration and cadet support/evaluation should be maintained at all times.
      3. **Specific to PUSH-UPS** 
         1. Special attention by the monitor will be paid to: back straight, hands shoulder width apart, and when in the down position, the **UPPER FOREARM MUST BE PARALLEL TO THE GROUND**. When your team practices, please make SURE your cadets do these essentials to gain credit for every push-up!
      4. **Specific to CURL-UPS** 
         1. Holding of the participants ankles as outlined within the SOP will be expected. Special attention by the monitor will be paid to: No ROCKING/ARCHING, legs stay at 45-degree angle, elbow contact is made mid-thigh, hands stay at opposite shoulder, and especially BOTH SHOULDER BLADES touch the ground on every “down”. When your team practices, please make SURE your cadets do these essentials to gain credit for every curl-up!
   5. **COLOR GUARD & DRILL EVENTS**:
      1. **Color Guard, Basic drill and Exhibition drill competition has been designated to be held EITHER INDOORS OR OUTDOORS – THIS IS COMPLETELY YOUR CALL.**
      2. **All drill sizes listed on the** [event website](http://www.thenationals.net/nn-3-5-drill_areas.pdf) remain in play – no changes.
      3. **Teams must carefully measure not only sizes, but entry placement and configuration to match the diagrams on-line.** Teams may use cones, chalk or anything that can be clearly seen by the monitor to size the drill areas for your performance.
      4. **Because of filming limitations and having the best video to judge, all teams in Exhibition Drill MUST do two things:** 
         1. The team must place an orange traffic cone or similar at the point of the boundary tape where they plan to execute both Report In and Report Out. You still get to choose this spot.
         2. **BOTH REPORT IN AND OUT MUST BE EXECUTED TO THE CONE**. You may not have a different report in and out location. In either case, make your report in/out loud and clear.
      5. The drill area boundary must be visibly marked in some manner that can be viewed on the video. The boundary marker needs to be a traffic cone or some type of three dimensional item (not just a mark on pavement). Each corner and the center point on each side must be marked.
      6. Obviously, no Head Judge will be in place for these events. Teams will utilize an orange traffic cone or similar to represent the Head Judge position for the team and for the judges when scoring. This will be critical as the teams will Report-in, Report-out, as well as perform Eyes, Right to this position (where applicable).
      7. Spectators, other team members, etc, must remain SILENT during ALL performances.
      8. Details on exact filming procedures will be maintained on Item #5 “Specific Event Video Information”.

**5. Specific Event Video Information:**

1. To make this meet as fair as possible, specific and often rigid guidelines will be in place for the filming of the color guard/drill portion of this event. This is done strictly for uniformity and to give every school an equal chance at success.
2. Schools will directly upload all performance videos to a private on-line channel that will be established for this event. Specific information on this channel and “how-to” directions will be maintained in your original mailing you will receive from SNI. Please ensure the videos uploaded are clearly labeled with the name of your school and the event(s) maintained on the product to be viewed.
3. The camera person needs much practice WITH THE TEAM so that he or she KNOWS what is happening BEFORE it happens. The camera should be an extension of the eye and not appear to be “reactive” but “proactive” like an eye is.
4. All zooms and pans should be slow and smooth. Quick jerky movements make it impossible to have a critical eye on your performance. Also extended far away filming makes it impossible to judge and WILL cause a loss of points. ***Better to be a shade too close for a moment than to drift far away***.
5. For each event at the competition you are filming, here are the specific guidelines to follow:

**General Guidelines**

* 1. Filming is ONLY REQUIRED during the color guard & drill events. **HOWEVER, it is STRONGLY RECOMMEND if at all possible to video your athletic performances as well and keep them**. Videotape answers a LOT of questions just in case you happen to have a CAREER day doing push-ups and curl-ups and you want the video to prove it!
  2. **Teams are directed to start the camera and have your event monitor look into the camera, state their name and contact information, then pan over and film the routine without turning off the camera.** PLEASE DO NOT TURN OFF THE CAMERA AS SEEING THE MONITOR THERE WITHOUT A TIME CODE BREAK ENSURES THE ROUTINE WAS SEEN BY THE MONITOR ON THE DAY THE EVENT WAS PERFORMED WITH ONE TAKE!
  3. **Only in the case of video equipment failure etc., and if the assigned event monitor deems it necessary, a school may be allowed to execute a second video “take” in order to capture a unit’s drill event performance that is suitable for judging.**
  4. In all filmed events, the camera MUST be incredibly stable and stationary – the camera cannot move locations once filming has begun – it is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED you video with a tripod to mount your camera to reduce shaking.
  5. The height of your camera may be from 5’ to 8’ in the air. In general, the taller the setting, the more the judge will see. It is your call exactly what height you wish to have your camera. (Note: the exact position will be covered under event specifics below)
  6. Ensure that your camera in use can pick-up some volume of the Cadet Commander EVEN WHEN they are in the most distant report corner of the drill area to receive a maximum available score.
  7. Judges can only score what they can see and hear….don’t make them guess….that said, we do not need nor expect to have a perfectly filmed routine in a “we got one shot at this” format. DO NOT PANIC if your videographer has a cadet left out of a formation. During color guard and regulation, we expect to see the whole platoon 99% of the time. During exhibition drill, if the unit breaks apart and marches all over, what and how you choose to pan (moving left to right) and zoom (moving in and out from the subject) have much more latitude.
  8. We at SNI understand it will be very hard to see a few small segments of color guard, regulation and even exhibition routines, BUT for fairness it should be hard to see EVERYONE during many of these parts! Therefore it is critical that your camera follow the performances in a smooth and consistent manner and give the judge plenty to score during the majority of the routine.
  9. **Event Specific Guidelines** 
     1. The position of the camera should be slightly different for each event. Here are specific items you will need to follow in EACH event to gain a max score:
        1. COLOR GUARD: The camera should be located at the location of the Head Judge, however the camera should be roughly 5’-8’ back from the boundary tape at this spot. This distance should give the videographer the ability to keep the entire color guard in the majority of the frame during all facets. Pay special attention to your subject to ensure that the ENTIRE flag (to include finial at the end of the staff) can be seen in the frame at all times when at the carry, as well as during “Eyes, Right / Ready, Front”.
        2. BASIC DRILL: Similar to color guard, but very little “height” to worry about. The camera should be located by the Head Judge, however the camera should be **roughly 10’ back from the boundary tape at a 45-degree angle from the Head Judge position** to the JUDGE’s RIGHT. Having the camera at an angle will allow the shooter to “look into the formation” a good bit during the stationary block commands. This distance will keep the entire unit in the majority of the frame during all facets. Pay special attention to your subject to ensure that the ENTIRE Platoon can be seen (as much as possible) when they march by close and execute “Eyes, Right / Ready, Front”.
        3. EXHIBITION: The camera angle requirements for this are strikingly different. As teams may choose to Report-in and Report Out facing in any direction, the team may place the camera ANYWHERE OUTSIDE THE DRILL AREA to best display the routine they will be performing. Largely for this event, all teams are given a wide berth on the exact manner in which they wish to film. However, once your filming location is decided, **you may not move from this location during the routine.** All videographers must keep in mind however that this is a PLATOON EX competition with large groups of cadets. While it is possible that you could have a cadet move so wide they will be out of the framed shot on occasion, the team must think carefully of how they wish to film their routine to have this happen infrequently. Filming from a WIDE zoom will allow everyone in the shot BUT very little detail may be shown. Filming too TIGHT may have too many cadet(s) leaving the frame and being unseen by the judges. Excessive use of tight camera angles that may exclude what many of your cadets are accomplishing will be poorly thought of by the judges. Think about this carefully when designing your filming location and style.

1. **WORDS OF ADVICE**
   1. It goes without saying but the ability for your school to compete well in these events may lie in the ability for your team to practice not only their competition drill, but also the FILMING of their drill! Therefore, all schools are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to think about the following factors:
      1. If you have multiple cameras that you have access to from your school to film your routines, **please try ALL of them** to see which one gives you the cleanest and best video to view. Which has the smoothest ZOOMING capability? This may even be a cell phone.
      2. If you have multiple TRIPODS available to use, PLEASE try all of them. See which gives you the smoothest “panning” from left or right? The most steady and shake-free look? Make sure the camera you like can connect to the tripod you like.
      3. Look at the light source…What time of day will work best for your camera to take the best pictures? Generally the higher the sun is in the sky, the better the shooting. Please try several practice “takes”.
      4. Consider ambient background sound from highways, other students, etc. – you want this video clean.
      5. When you shoot your test shots, look at the overall quality of the actual product you will be sending to SNI? Look at the product you are producing and see if it shows off your talents well.
      6. Make sure you CLEARLY LABEL anything you submit.

**6. Event Judging & Scoring:**

1. Procedures are being put in place to mimic as closely as possible the feel of a traditional meet. This will include: full judges briefing on SOP regs; a blind draw for the starting placements (i.e., the ORDER the judges will see the performances in.), Judging Director supervision of scoring (Just as done on-site at the event), and Area Manager back-up for CFM questions/info.
2. When a school submits their package of scoring items and it is received by SNI, each school will be notified that all of their items have been received and they are in process.
3. Judging in ALL AREAS of the virtual meet will be undertaken in a manner to best produce accurate results and that best reflect the talent on display in all areas. These specific aspects of judging will include the following:
4. **For the Academic Test**
   1. Each cadet will have their bubble sheet run through TWICE on a just-calibrated automated scoring machine that flawlessly detects the bubbled answers. This will be the exact same scoring procedures that have always been in place.
5. **For the Athletic Events**
   1. All judging will be handled on-site by the monitor watching the performance.
6. **For the Color Guard / Drill Performances**
   1. Judges with solid backgrounds in the current MCO P5060-20 with guidance on the NJROTC Handbook will be in use for all basic events. Navy/Marine Corps individuals with specific background in Exhibition Drill will be obtained to judge these events.
   2. **As this is a virtual competition and all performances are filmed, the range and scope for acquiring these judges will be throughout the world!**
   3. Performance videos will be carefully filmed by schools under tight parameters listed under Item #5, “Specific Event Video Information “. These videos will be reviewed for compliance by Judging Director Justin Gates, and then placed in the cue for judging by subject matter experts obtained by Sports Network International and/or NJROTC Pensacola in Color Guard, Basic & Exhibition Drills, both Armed & Unarmed.