

42 UBC Physics Olympics is Cancelled - see you in 2021!

Dear Physics Teachers and Coaches:

This year was supposed to be a special year for our UBC Physics Olympics. After all, according to Douglas Adams, 42 is the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything. The 42nd UBC Physics Olympics was supposed to be the biggest ever hands-on celebration of physics event for high school students in Canada if not in North America. We were expecting **77 teams, corresponding to about 1,000 participants between the students, teachers and coaches, volunteers, and well-wishers. However, today we decided that due to the spread of the Corona virus around the world and in order to help the efforts of containing it, we will postpone the 42nd UBC Physics Olympics to 2021.**

Despite the huge efforts that your students, you, and all of us here at UBC have put into the event, we believe that we should cancel it this year. We are very disappointed, but we think we have made the right decision and we hope you and your students will understand. We also hope that the grade 12 students who have put so much effort in the pre-builds and getting ready for the event will understand the decision, one that was not made lightly. We hope that many of them will come to UBC and participate in the event next year as volunteers or maybe they will support their schools as mentors and coaches. We will be using the same rules for 2021 UBC Physics Olympics, so you will be able to prepare much better for that event as your prebuilds are already almost ready.

If you are considering participating next year, we can count this year's registration payment in lieu of next year's. You can contact Marina and Vindy Lin (windy.lin@ubc.ca) to let us know if this is your choice and Vindy will be able to email you a receipt for your payment. Alternatively, you can get your refund through Vindy. We will help you figure it out.

Please feel free to contact us (Marina Milner-Bolotin: marina.milner-bolotin@ubc.ca) if you have any questions or concerns. Again, we are very sorry about this unfortunate outcome.

With very warm wishes from Vancouver,

The Organizing Committee of the 42nd UBC Physics Olympics. We will see you all in 2021.

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*No trees were killed to send this message, but a large number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.*

*(Attributed to Kelvin Dueck)*