



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
CARAGA REGION

JANUARY 7, 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 0006 , s. 2026

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

3<sup>rd</sup> MINDANAO MICROBIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

1. The University of Southern Mindanao-Microbiology Society (USM MicroSoc) will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mindanao Microbiology Olympiad (MMO) centered on the theme "Tinguha: Intertwining Knowledge, Community, and Life". The competition is open to all Senior High School students from the six regions of Mindanao, to foster excellence in microbiology at the pre-college level.
2. Participation to the said activity is voluntary and shall adhere to the "Non-disruption of Classes Policy of the Department." Meals, accommodation, transportation and other incidental expenses of the teacher and student - participants shall be charged to personal fund.
3. The Regional Elimination Rounds will be held in-person on January 19-23, 2026 in a designated venue; hence, all interested students and coaches may attend the mandatory orientation on January 16, 2026. The Event Primer is attached for reference.
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum to all concerned is highly desired.

**MARIA INES C. ASUNCION**  
Director IV  
Regional Director

Encl.: As stated

Reference: None

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

CONTESTS

LEARNERS

SCIENCE EDUCATION

CLMD/mrre  
01/06/2026



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US/ Microbiology  
Society

PSHS-SMC TEAM 1

capsule

mpo

# INCUHA

IGNITING MINDS THROUGH MICROBIAL DISCOVERY

**3<sup>RD</sup> MINDANAO MICROBIOLOGY OLYMPIAD**

University of Southern Mindanao  
Kabacan, Cotabato

**eventprimer**



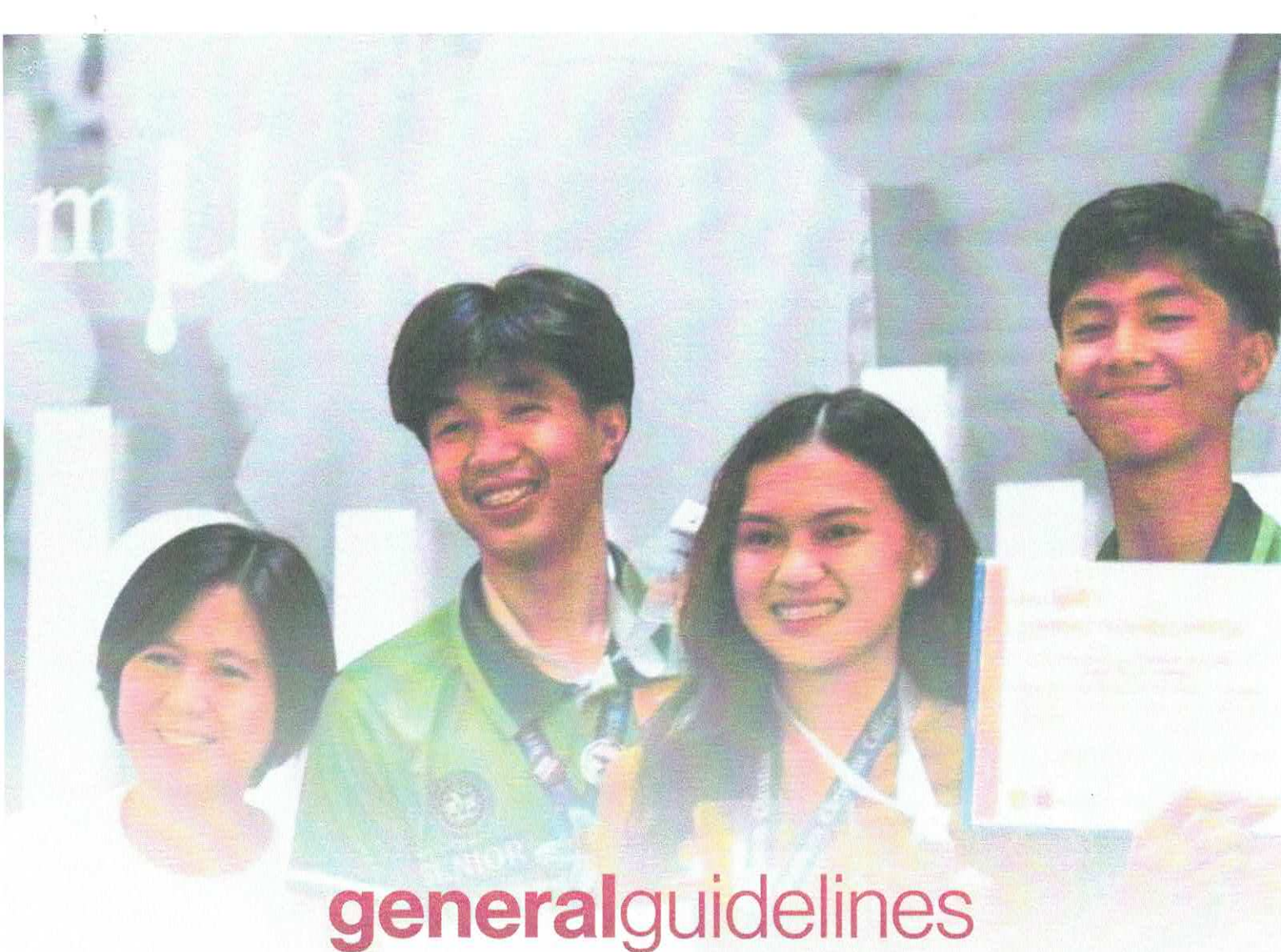
## abouttheevent

Welcome to the **3<sup>rd</sup> Mindanao Microbiology Olympiad (MMO)**, with the theme **"Tinguha: Igniting Minds Through Microbial Diversity!"**

**Tinguha**, a symbol of joy and festivity, signifies more than just a competition—it serves as a gathering of brilliance, talent, and unity among aspiring minds driven by their fascination with the world of microbiology.

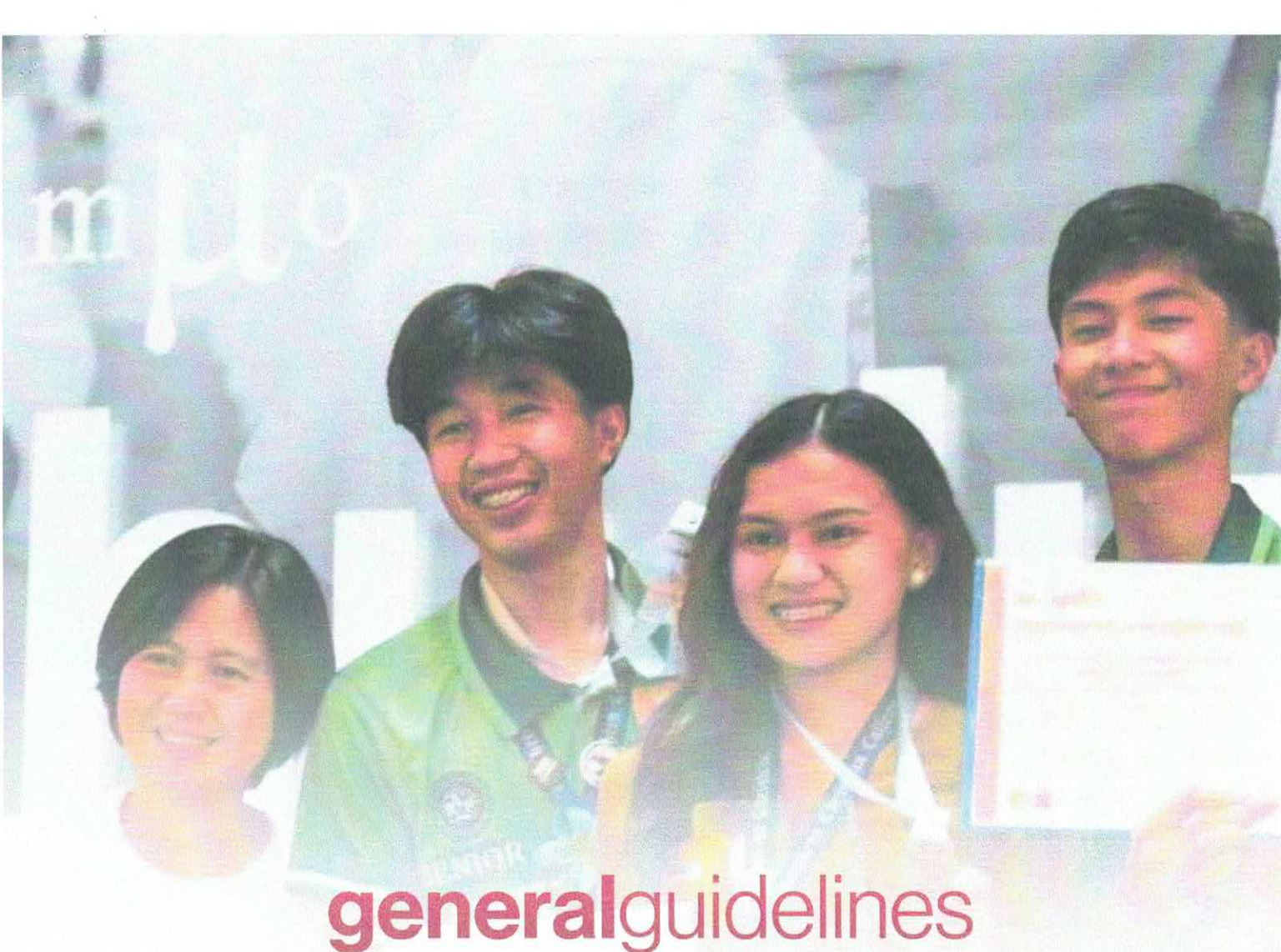
Organized by the **USM Microbiology Society**, the **Mindanao Microbiology Olympiad (MMO)** is the **original** and **premier platform** for **Senior High School students across Mindanao**. Following its success, and preceding the nationwide **Philippine Microbiology Olympiad (PhilMO)**, MMO continues to be the premier platform for **Senior High School students across Mindanao** to showcase their microbiological knowledge, creativity, and collaborative spirit. Through a series of dynamic, inquiry-based challenges, participants will engage in critical thinking, scientific problem-solving, and teamwork—celebrating the diversity and depth of microbial science.

We warmly invite you to register and represent your school in this extraordinary gathering of aspiring scientists. Let the spirit of TINGUHA guide you that will fuel your curiosity, honoring your pursuit of knowledge, and igniting your potential as we uncover the wonders of microbiology together.



## general guidelines

- All **Senior High School (SHS) institutions in Mindanao** are eligible to participate in the competition.
- Each institution can register a **maximum of five (5) entries** for the Individual Category and a **maximum of three (3) entries** for the Team Category, with each team consisting of **three (3) students**.
- Each entry **must be accompanied by their coach(es)** during the competition. A coach may guide multiple entries and participate in different categories within the same institution.
- Only **bona fide students** of the participating SHS are eligible to participate. A school ID or certificate of registration/enrolment are required for registration.
- **Alterations or participant substitutions after registration** are **only allowed** if the participant **has valid reasons** such as medical problems, emergencies, etc.
- The **registration fee is Php 500.00 for each individual entry and Php 1,200.00 for each team entry, both non-refundable.**



## general guidelines

- All participating students and coaches must attend the **mandatory orientation** prior to the event. Details of the orientation will be on **January 16, 2026**.
- The **Regional Elimination Rounds** will be **held in-person on January 19-23, 2026**, in designated venues across each region. The venues for the Elimination Rounds will be announced soon. The **top three entries in each category from each region will advance to the Finals Round**.
- The **Finals Round** will be held on **February 20, 2026**, at the **University of Southern Mindanao (USM), Kabacan, Cotabato**.



# competitionmechanics

## individualcategory

### A. CONTESTANT

- Each entry should be composed of **one (1) Senior High School student** with **at least one (1) coach**.

### B. FORMAT

- This category will be administered as a **pen-and-paper examination**.
- Participants will answer a **100-item questionnaire**.
- The duration of the exam is **90 minutes**.
- Each correct answer will be awarded **one point**. The "**Right minus Wrong**" scoring scheme will be applied.
- No deductions will be applied for incorrect or unanswered questions.



# competitionmechanics

## individualcategory

- Questions will cover topics in **Basic Microbiology**, based on the harmonized syllabi of the Philippine Academy for Microbiology (PAM). To further assist participants in their preparation, a **participant kit will be emailed upon registration**. This kit will include a topic outline, mock questions, and scholarly resources.
- Question types will be limited to the following: **1) multiple choice, 2) identification, 3) true or false, 4) fill in the blanks, 5) analogy, and 6) problem-solving.**
- Answers must be recorded on the provided answer sheet. Student participants are only permitted to bring a **pen, pencil, and/or eraser into the examination room.**
- **Coaches are not allowed to enter the examination room.** Only student participants are permitted.
- In cases where two or more examinees achieve the same score, a **tie-breaker exam will be administered.**
  - This tie-breaker exam will consist of **10 questions** and will have a time limit of **5 minutes**.



# competitionmechanics

## individualcategory

### C. PROTEST POLICY

- **Contestants may raise protests during the exam**, but only in a proper and respectful manner **by raising their hand** and waiting to be acknowledged by the proctor. Protests must concern the clarity, wording, or validity of a question.
- The board of judges will **immediately deliberate and announce their ruling**. All decisions of the judges are considered **final** and **irrevocable**.

### D. CLINCHER ROUND

- In cases where two or more examinees achieve the same score, a **tie-breaker exam will be administered**. This tie-breaker exam will consist of **5 questions** and will have a time limit of **5 minutes**. **One with the highest number of correct answer wins.**



# competitionmechanics

## individualcategory

### E. RULES

- All contestants must remain seated quietly during the examination.
- No communication with other participants is allowed once the exam begins.
- The use of **electronic devices** (e.g., smart watches, phones, etc.) notes, or reference materials is strictly prohibited.
- Only answers shaded/written on the answer sheet will be considered final. Erasures are **not allowed**.  
**Item with erasure will be considered invalid.**
- At the end of the allotted time, participants must immediately stop writing and submit their answer sheets when instructed by the proctor.



# competitionmechanics

## teamcategory

### A. CONTESTANT

- Each entry should be composed of three (3) Senior High School students with at least one (1) coach.

### B. FORMAT

- This category will be administered using a **board-raising format**.
- The competition will be divided into three rounds, each consisting of **15 questions**:
  1. **Easy Round**: 15 seconds per question
  2. **Average Round**: 30 seconds per question
  3. **Difficult Round**: 60 seconds per question

The **scoring system** are as follows:

- **Easy Round**: **One point** for each correct answer. **No deductions** for incorrect or unanswered questions.
- **Average Round**: **Five points** for each correct answer. **Three points will be deducted** for each incorrect answer. **No deductions** for unanswered questions.
- **Difficult Round**: **Ten points** for each correct answer. **Five points will be deducted** for each incorrect answer. **Two points will be deducted** for unanswered questions.



## competitionmechanics teamcategory

- Questions will cover topics in **Basic Microbiology** (Bacteriology, Virology, Phycology, Nematology, Parasitology, Mycology and Protozoology) based on the harmonized syllabi of the Philippine Academy for Microbiology (PAM). To further assist participants in their preparation, a **participant kit will be emailed upon registration**. This kit will include a topic outline, mock questions, and scholarly resources.
- Question types will be limited to the following: **1) multiple choice, 2) identification, 3) true or false, 4) fill in the blanks, 5) analogy, and 6) problem-solving.**

### C. PROTEST POLICY

- Only student participants are authorized to raise protests. Protests must be directed to the board of judges and submitted before the next question. All decisions made by the judges are final and irrevocable.

### D. CLINCHER ROUND

- In the case of a tie, a clincher round will determine the winner. Tied teams will receive a single question, and the first team to provide the correct answer wins the tiebreaker.



# competitionmechanics teamcategory

## E. RULES

- Each team **will be provided with a board and marker**. Contestants must raise their markers before a question is read.
- Questions will be read twice by the quizmaster. Contestants may only begin writing their answers when the quizmaster says "go" after the second reading.
- **When the bell rings**, contestants must immediately stop writing and raise their answer boards
- The **quizmaster will read and verify all contestants' answers**.

# registerhere



This form will require submission of the participants' school IDs and proof of registration fee payment.

## save the dates

October 20, 2025: **Start of Registration**

December 12, 2025: **End of Registration**

January 16, 2026: **Orientation Meeting**

January 19-23, 2026: **Regional Elimination Round**

February 20, 2026: **Final Rounds**

## contact us



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