

## **IJSO Statutes**

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### INTRODUCTION

## § 1 (Definition)

The International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) is an annual individual and team competition in the Natural Sciences for students who are fifteen years old or younger on 31st December of the competition year. IJSO has been established in recognition of the significance of the Natural Sciences in the general education of young people and in all aspects of their lives. It is a purely educational event.

## **§ 2** (Preamble)

No country may have its delegation excluded from participation on political grounds, lack of diplomatic relations, lack of recognition by the government of the Organising country, imposed embargoes or similar reasons. When difficulties preclude the formal invitation of the delegation representing a country, students from such a country should be invited to participate as individual delegations. Religious or political propaganda against any person or country or disruption of any aspect of the IJSO is strictly forbidden. Participation in the IJSO either by a host country, a delegation or an observer signifies acceptance of the statutes and all other aspects of the IJSO.

# § 3 (Aims & Objectives)

The aims of the IJSO are

- to promote and reward the pursuit of excellence in scientific endeavour.
- to challenge, stimulate and encourage gifted students to further develop their talents in Natural Sciences.
- to create friendship and relationships among students around the world from an early age.

### The objectives of the IJSO are

- ♦ to stimulate the active interest of students in the Natural Sciences.
- ♦ to promote their careers as scientists.
- ♦ to enhance and develop international contacts in the Natural Sciences.
- ♦ to promote future scientific collaboration.

- to encourage the formation of friendships within the scientific community.
- ♦ to offer the opportunity to compare the syllabi and educational trends in science education within the participating countries.

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE IJSO**

### § 4.

(Organization)

The IJSO is organised in late November or early December by the National Organising Committee (OC) of one of the participating countries on behalf of its National Government, its Ministries or its official Institution(s). The competition has to be conducted on the territory of this nation. The duration of the Olympiad (including the arrival and departure days) should not be less than 9 days.

English is the working language of the IJSO and competition problems and their solutions should be presented to the IJSO International Board (IB) and team leaders in English. The organisers may also prepare these documents in other languages.

Within five years of its entry in the competition a country should declare its intention to be the host of a future IJSO so that the order of countries willing to arrange the IJSO can be compiled. A country that refuses to commit to organise the competition may be barred from further participation.

In the event of the IJSO being cancelled, all participating countries including those countries that had agreed to send an observer will be invited to send full delegations to the following IJSO.

The International Board of the IJSO is comprised of the Executive Committee and the Country Coordinators of each member country.

The Executive Committee comprises:

- President
- Vice Presidents of Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe.
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Head of the Administration Centre.

The Local Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee of any particular competition should have no overlap or common members with the host Country Coordinator.

## § 4.1 (The President)

The President shall be elected by the IB and shall serve a three-year term. He/She may be re-elected by the IB for only one additional term.

He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all IJSO committees and shall receive an official invitation from the host country of the IJSO. All costs incurred for inviting the president is the obligation of the Organising Committee (OC). He/She shall be invited to deliver a speech at the opening and closing ceremonies.

The President shall ensure that the IJSO constitution is upheld and shall chair the IB meeting where changes to the constitution are being discussed (§ 4.7). His/Her duty is also to chair the IB meeting where medal allocations are determined.

The signature of the President should be on all certificates.

In the case that the IJSO is not taking place or in danger of not taking place in any year, the IJSO President has the authority to invite the IB of the previous year to remain in office and manage the affairs of the IJSO until a new host country is accepted.

The president has to be supported by the IJSO office at his/her local secretary bureau, expenses for which must be covered by the participating countries (§ 7).

### 4.2 (Vice Presidents)

Vice Presidents shall be ex-officio members of all IJSO committees and shall act with responsibility to the continent, which they are representing. They shall be elected by the IB of the relevant continent. They shall help the president with his/her tasks. They shall serve a three-year term and may be re-elected by the IB for only one additional term. The VPs shall promote and encourage countries in his/her region to participate in IJSO.

# § 4.3 (Administration Centre)

The IJSO Administration Centre acts as the administrative machinery of the IJSO. For sustainable development of IJSO, the Centre is a permanent institution with no term limits. The Ministry of Education of the country where the Centre is located can staff the IJSO Administration Centre. The obligation and responsibility of Administration Centre (AC) are as the following.

AC shall ensure information services for all member countries and for the related international institutions.

- AC shall summon the IJSO Executive Committee meeting and the International Board if necessary. In the meantime, it shall ensure preparation and distribution of materials to these meetings.
- AC shall accumulate relevant documentation about the competition. It shall register and renew addresses of coordinators, their deputies, observers, and of institutions taking part in the IJSO.
- AC shall collect materials and information regarding the IJSO and other scientific competitions, including descriptions of competitions used to select IJSO contestants.
- ♦ AC can coordinate the invitation of observers from other non-IJSO member countries by the future host country.
- ♦ AC shall organise the agendas and minutes for annual EC meeting and presents a yearly report, which also includes its activities and the financial situation at the International Board.

#### 4.4

### (Executive Committee)

The long-term work of the IJSO is coordinated by the Executive Committee (EC). It consists of the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and the Head of Administration Centre. Except Head of AC, the IB elects the EC for a period of three years and may be re-elected for one additional term only. Head of AC shall be appointed by concerned country and approved by IB. Vacancies occurring within the three year period will be filled by the IB through election to complete the term. The members serve in a voluntary capacity and will not receive a stipend. Member/s of EC that is not serving as one of the team leader or observer of his/her country will not be charged the registration fee and may apply for support from the hosting country for example: the transportation costs.

Members of the Executive Committee (EC) can also act as the Country Coordinators for their countries.

### 4.5

### (Organising Committee)

The Organising Committee (OC) of the IJSO must be completely independent and separate from the local Country Coordinator responsible for the selection and training, etc, of the Host Country Team.

The appropriate Governmental Department or Institution(s) of the host country on whose territory the competition takes place appoints the OC to run the IJSO on behalf of the host country.

The OC should produce a "Programme Book" based on the IJSO statutes and guidelines. Leaders and students of the participating countries would have these books in check-in time. Programme Book shall give all necessary details about the IJSO event.

The OC shall provide a detailed program for the competition including the schedule, program of excursions, etc., which is sent to the delegation leaders of the IJSO.

The OC shall load onto the IJSO website a summary of the event proceedings including a table of marks within one month of the final day of the relevant competition.

# § 4.6 (Scientific Committee)

The OC appoints a Scientific Committee (SC) to manage all the scientific aspects of the IJSO. The SC will provide three tasks, solutions and a marking scheme. The topics for the competition must correspond to the latest approved IJSO syllabus. The objective of the tasks should be to assess the ability of

students to apply their knowledge in new and difficult contexts rather than to assess the wide range of knowledge they have acquired by fifteen years old.

The Scientific Committee shall produce copies of the question papers on CD in all relevant languages of that competition. The Executive Committee should ensure that this is completed in a timely manner

The SC is responsible for the grading the problem solutions and for organising and carrying out the moderation process.

## 4.7 (International Board)

The International Board (IB) is composed of the Executive Committee and the Country Coordinators of the participating countries and is the decision making body and final arbitrator of the IJSO. Decisions of the IB are taken on the basis of a simple majority (unless otherwise stated in the statutes) in the presence of at least 75% of members attending IJSO event that year and are final. Each IB member has one vote. In the case of equal votes, the president has a casting vote and takes the final decision. The President is the head of the IB meeting. His duties include:

- to declare the meeting open and verify by roll call the names of voting members present.
- to allow equal opportunities to all members to express their points of view.
- ♦ to restrict/limit where necessary the contributions of certain members.
- ♦ to record the decisions of the IB.
- ♦ to complete the agenda of the meeting within the prescribed time.
- to declare the meeting over or deferred.

One of the team leaders will serve as a Country Coordinator (CC) until the next IJSO and as a member of the International Board (IB) of IJSO. CCs should belong to an official Institution, University, or well-known associations, and participate in IJSO on behalf of country.

### The duties of the IB are

- to direct and supervise the IJSO in accordance with the statutes.
- ♦ to verify that all members meet all the requirements of the IJSO.
- to discuss and approve the tasks, their solutions and evaluation. The IB may change or reject parts of tasks one and two but may not propose new ones. Structural changes may not be made to the experimental task.
- to ensure that no assistance is given to students by way of translations or by any other means.
- to ensure the correct and just classification of the prize winners.
- to establish the winners of the competition and make a decision concerning the presentation of the prizes.
- ♦ to review the running of the IJSO.
- to ensure that violations of the statutes are dealt with appropriately

- to approve the countries that will organise future IJSOs.
- to expel countries or individuals from participation in the IJSO for violation of the statutes.
- to accept the decisions of the majority of the members present.

### The IB approves

- the final results of the evaluation and decides on the number of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and other awards to be awarded in accordance with the Statutes.
- ♦ The changes to IJSO statutes come into effect from January 1 the following year OR the effective date mentioned for that specific amendment and accepted by the IB.
- ♦ The expulsion of team leaders or member countries from the IJSO in the case of a serious breach of the rules.

#### PARTICIPATION IN THE IJSO

# § 5 (National Delegations)

Participation in the International Junior Science Olympiad signifies acceptance of the present Statutes by the Relevant Ministry of the participating country.

Each participating country that has either participated fully in or sent an observer to the IJSO in one of the previous two years is invited to send a delegation of six students and three team leaders. One team leader acts as the Country Coordinator (CC).

The hosting country has the right to have two national delegations.

Countries who want to join the IJSO after it has reached the number of fifty attending member countries have to start by sending an observer at least once at the IJSO before they participate for the first time.

## § 5.1 (Obligations)

The obligations of the participating countries are to pay the participation fee at the time that the host country decides and to obey all rules of the IJSO statutes and rules made by the Host Country for the ongoing event. Each participating country may submit six multiple choice problem (two for each subject: Physics, Chemistry and Biology) for task one, one theoretical problem for each subject for task two, and one experimental problem for task three to the OC of IJSO. The complete solution of each problem must also be submitted.

## § 5.2 (Competitors)

A normal team consists of six students and three leaders. If a normal team could not be fulfilled, then the minimum team that consists of three students and at least one leader, will also be allowed to participate in the IJSO. Teams consisting of less than three members are not classified for team awards.

The age of the competitors is fifteen years old or younger on 31st December of the competition year. As an example students born on or after January 1st 2000 are therefore eligible for IJSO in 2015.

A student is eligible to represent his/her country if he/she holds a valid passport of that country or has been at school in that country for at least one academic year immediately prior to the competition, and has not participated in the selection process for another country's team. Students at the time of the competition should not be part of University education.

Students must accept the statutes of the IJSO and the organisation rules provided by the OC.

The uses of one's own collections of formulae from mathematics, chemistry, physics, etc. during the competition are not allowed.

### § 5.3

### (Country Coordinator)

The Country Coordinator is the contact person in each participating IJSO country and must insure that

- → all registration forms are completed and sent to the Organising Committee (OC) on time.
- guarantee that all delegation member details are in accordance with the rules of the IJSO.
- ♦ pay all fees to the OC on time.
- confirm at registration that all delegation member details provided are correct.

### § 5.4

### (Team Leaders)

The Team Leaders must

- preserve complete secrecy of the tasks and the results until publicly announced.
- provide a proper translation of the problems from English (or other languages) to the mother tongue of their participants. The Organisation Committee (OC) will not be responsible for providing the translator for the country delegation.
- grade their students' scripts and participate fully in the moderation process.
- accept the statutes of the IJSO and the Organisation Rules provided by the OC.
- ♦ not have contact with their students once the problem discussion has started, and until permission has been granted by the IB.

The IB will disqualify those contestants who do not meet these IJSO conditions. The Team Leaders must ensure that all delegation member details are in accordance with the rules of the IJSO and have been accepted by the OC prior to arrival at the IJSO.

The Team Leaders must cover the costs incurred by a disqualified contestant or contestants where the OC has not accepted the contestant or contestants.

## § 5.5 (Observers)

Observer/s are those people who come to observe the IJSO. They include a representative of a country wishing to join the IJSO and representatives of future host countries and an assistant to the Country Coordinator.

An Observer:

- is regarded in the same way as a team leader.
- is invited to observe all IB meetings and IJSO activities.
- does not have voting rights at the IB and team leaders meeting. 
  must pay an observer fee determined by the host country.

The Host country must finalise the Observer and Visitor fees after consultation with the Executive Committee.

# § 5.6 (Visitors)

A Visitor from a participating country, e.g. the parent of the students, may attend the IJSO, A Visitor:

- ♦ is invited to join for all excursion programs for leaders only.
- is invited to attend the opening and closing ceremonies.
- is not allowed to attend any meetings pertaining to IJSO.
- must pay his/her accommodations (hotel, foods, travelling, etc.) fully during his/her stay.
- ♦ must pay the visitor fee determined by the host country.

# § 5.7 (Guest Delegations)

Under the approval of the EC of IJSO the host country may invite Guest Delegations, but only one Guest Delegation from each participating country, including a Guest Delegation from the host country. Guest Delegation leaders are not voting members of the IB but their duties are the same as other delegation leaders in all other respects. The Guest Delegation pays all the expenses related to its participation determined by the host country.

Countries present with Guest Delegations only are not obliged to Organise the IJSO in the future.

Competitors from the Guest Delegations are classified in the same way as the regular delegations. They may receive medals, awards, diplomas and prizes but their names should be associated with the letter "G" (Guest) in all official documents. Also, the Guest Delegation will not be awarded as the country winner, Best experiment, Best Theoretical winner or overall Winner. The medals, awards, diplomas and prizes awarded to the guest teams are in addition to the 60% allocated awards.

#### **HOSTING THE IJSO**

### § 6.1

(Duties of the Host Country)

The host country must ensure or prove that

♦ The event is conducted in accordance with the statutes.

- ♦ a Logo of the IJSO is used in all banners, documents, certificates etc.
- Each member country and EC member receive an official invitation letter (including announcement about financial contributions of participants and observers) and relevant information.
- ♦ Students and leaders should not stay at the same hotel.
- The final report will be published and delivered to the participant countries and AC before the end of next IJSO.
- There may not be any contacts between leaders/observers/visitors and their team members at the beginning of, during and after problems discussion until the students have finished the test for the discussed problems.
- ♦ Secrecy and confidentiality during the competition will be supervised.
- ♦ The health and safety of the delegations is provided.
- Laboratories, examination halls, materials and other requirements necessary for the carrying out of the IJSO in accordance with the rules are provided.
- Participating countries will obtain visas and their embassies/trade offices abroad are informed.
- Competition tasks, author's solution and marking of the individual results for the team leaders are prepared.
- ♦ The translators and interpreters are assisted during all IJSO sessions.
- Organising committee and scientific committee will cooperate with EC members.

### § 6.2

### (Duties of the following Host Countries)

The next Host Country must provide a formal invitation to all participating countries. The formal invitation must be addressed by the chairman of the Organising Committee or from the Government Official of the next hosting country. It may bring observers to watch the ongoing IJSO.

Must invite the EC Members of IJSO to observe the preparation of OC at least 6 months before the date of the IJSO event. All costs for inviting the EC members must be borne by the OC of the next host country.

The subsequent hosting country must send a preliminary invitation to all participating countries and may make any other presentations, etc., to all of the participating countries.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### § 7 (Financial Matters)

The financial management of the IJSO is as follows:

The host country covers all costs from the arrival at the location of the IJSO until departure of the delegations. This includes the costs of

- board and lodging of the delegations
- ♦ excursions
- ♦ medals, awards, certificates, other prizes, etc.

The Country Coordinators of the participating countries must ensure that the government/sponsor covers the cost for the delegation of

- return travel to the location of the competition
- health & travel insurance for the period of the competition.
- the participation fees for each delegation is US\$ 1.000.00 and will be reviewed yearly.

Twenty-five (25%) of the participation fee should be returned to the Treasurer of IJSO within six months for operational costs of IJSO Organisation (§ 4.1). The Financial status of IJSO will be reported by the Treasurer in a written text every year at the International Board Meeting and is subject to be audited by the Internal IJSO's Auditors.

All cost incurred for creating problems (theory and experiment) for the IJSO event is the responsibility of the host country.

#### THE COMPETITION

### § 8 (Schedule)

The competition is divided into three tasks, prepared by the SC and conducted over three days with an interval of at least one day between each task. The time allotted to each task should normally be three to four hours. The OC decides the sequence of the competition days.

# § 8.1 (Problems)

The problems consist of three tests.

Test One and Two are individual competitions. However Test Three is a team competition, where one team consists of three students of each delegation (each country may have two teams for task three).

Test One is a multi-choice-questionnaire (MCQ). The number of questions should be 30 (thirty). Questions for Test One should include Physics (10 problems), Biology (10 Problems) and Chemistry (10 problems). Each question shall have four possible answers with only one is correct.

Test Two is a theoretical test. The number of tests should be 2 (two) or 3 (three). Test Two should be more complex involving a combination of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Test Three is an experimental task. The number of tasks should not exceed 4 (four). Questions for Test Three should be the combination of Physics, Chemistry and Biology and should be in equal proportion.

The problems must

- be related to the syllabus of IJSO, and cover all content of the syllabus as much as possible.
- be reviewed by the IJSO Scientific Experts (not the local SC, but an adhoc Scientific Committee, IF formed by the EC) prior to the problem discussion.
- ♦ be created innovatively and the answers must be language independent.

The SC shall prepare at least 9 (nine) spare multi-choice questions for task one, and 3 (three) spare problems for task two. These extra questions should be divided equally among all three subjects. When a replacement question is being considered, the IB may vote on that alternative alone without reference to the other alternatives. The rejected problem(s) cannot be reconsidered.

# § 8.2 (Problems Discussion)

The problem discussion

- can only be attended by leaders, EC members, observers and appointed OC members.
- must be lead by a member of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the host country.
- should provide a presentation of the problems by the SC to be discussed by all leaders.
- ♦ may be mediated by the president if there is a dispute among the leaders.
- can reject problems which are determined by a 75% majority vote of the Country Coordinators (CC). One country has one vote only.
- The rejected problem/s must not be reconsidered to be one of the problem/s.

## § 8.3 (Problem Translations)

The Team Leaders must not give any clues, changes, simplifications or modifications for the problems that have been approved by the IB members when the problems are translated to their own languages (translation means to change the sentences/words to one language according to the related Dictionary).

Any country that violates this condition, will be disqualified from the event, and must return home immediately without receiving any expenses related to their participation budget, from the host country or by IJSO. The official English version will be provided to each student on request.

# § 8.4 (Marking)

The marking of the Tests are conducted by the Scientific Committee and may be revised following discussions with the Team Leaders during moderation (§ 8.5).

The maximum points allocated to the tasks are:

♦ Test One: 30 points
♦ Test Two: 30 points
♦ Test Three: 40 points

Test One and Test Two are marked individually. In Test One the correct answer will be marked 1 (one), the wrong answer will get penalty 0.25 (zero point twenty five), and zero marks for not answering.

Each member of the team for Test Three will be awarded the same points. For correct marking the team leader/s is/are obliged to state clearly the names of his/her students as Team A or Team B. However, the names on each team may be changed (reshuffled) only on the arrival date. No more changes can be made afterwards.

## § 8.5 (Moderation)

Moderation is the discussion of the students' marks between Team Leaders and SC members ( $\S$  8.4).

On the night prior to moderation the SC must provide to the team leader the marks for each student including the marking scheme.

Each country will be called according to their schedules, and will only be present for discussion for the allocated time determined by SC (all countries will get the same time allocation).

At the end of the moderation, the head of the team leaders of each country must sign the final agreed mark for their students.

No more changes can be made for the students' marks after moderation, unless there is a proven mistake by the SC on their final marks. Furthermore, the moderation

- can only be attended by leaders, EC members (if necessary), and appointed OC members.

### § 8.6

(Calculating the Awards)

Medals are allocated on the basis of individual total points. The points allocated to the individual test one and two are added to the points allocated to team test three.

In deciding on the Best Theoretical Winner, only results of the Test One and Test Two are added.

In deciding the Best Team only the results of test three are considered.

In deciding the Country Winner all six individual scores are added. If there is a tie, Gold medals are allocated three points, silver two and bronze one. If there is still a tie, only gold and silver are considered and finally only gold. The following examples may explain the decision procedure in the case of a tie (grey = Country Winner):

Case 1: 3 delegations with 6 students each with a total of 600 P. (tie)				
Country	Medals	Total Value	G/S-Value	Gold-Value
Delegation A	3G,3B	12	9 no matter	9 no matter
Delegation B	2G,3S,1B	13	12 no matter	6 no matter
Delegation C	6S	12	12 no matter	0 no matter

Case 2: 3 delegations with 6 students each with a total of 600 P. (tie)				
Country	Medals	Total Value	G/S-Value	Gold-Value
Delegation A	1G,4S,1B	12 (tie)	11	3 no matter
Delegation B	3G,3B	12 (tie)	9	9 no matter
Delegation C	6S	12 (tie)	12	0 no matter

Case 3: 3 delegations with 5 or 6 students each with a total of 600 P. (tie)				
Country	Medals	Total Value	G/S-Value	Gold-Value
Delegation A	4G,xx,1B	13 (tie)	12 (tie)	12
Delegation B	2G,3S,1B	13 (tie)	12 (tie)	6
Delegation C	6S	12 no matter	12 no matter	0 no matter

The **Overall Winner** is the student who has the highest total points (the total of Test One, Two and Three).

The President and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee will ensure that each student has been allocated the correct marks and therefore the correct medal. During the discussion of medal allocations real results should not be shown.

Students' results will be released only at the closing ceremony of IJSO.

§ 8.7 (Awards)

#### Certificates

All students who do not obtain any medal will receive certificates of participation. The student who obtains a medal will receive a certificate that clearly mentions the medal received.

#### Medals

Medals will be awarded as follows:

For individual competition:

Gold medals : top 10 % (approx.) of all students

Silver medals : next 20 % (approx.) of all students Bronze medals : next 30 % (approx.) of all students

(must not exceed 60 %)

For team (experimental) competition (1 medal to each team member):

Gold medals : 1<sup>st</sup> Highest point of the team Silver medals : 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest point of the team

Bronze medals : 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest point of the team

Special prizes and certificates will be awarded to

the student who obtains the highest overall score (total points obtained from all Tests) is called as "the over all winner".

the student who obtains the highest score for theoretical test (total points of Test One and Two) is called "the best theory winner".

A perpetual challenge trophy and flag will be awarded by the President of IJSO to the country who achieved the highest accumulated score of all six students and is called "the country winner". The IJSO flag will not be permanently belong to the winner, however to be returned to the President of IJSO at the opening ceremony of the next IJSO and will be awarded to the next country winner. Additional Special prizes can be awarded at the discretion of the host country.

### **HONORARY MEMBERS**

#### 8 9

(Honorary Members)

The IB may award a person the title "Honorary Member of the International Junior Science Olympiad" for special service to the IJSO. They may be invited to the IJSO. The payment of all expenses of the honorary member is at the discretion of the host country. The Past Presidents of IJSO are automatically honorary members of IJSO.

### § 10 (Finally)

The original of these Statutes is written in English.

These Statutes is immediately effective after they are ratified at the 10th IJSO International Board Meeting in Pune, India on December 9, 2013. Therefore, the previous IJSO Statutes are no longer valid.

Any IB member may propose changes to the statutes in writing to the Secretary of the IJSO, who is then responsible for their circulation. Changes to the statutes can only be made at an IB meeting, chaired by the President and specifically called for that purpose where more than 66% members present vote in favour of the proposed change OR if more than 75 % of the IB members vote for the change by round robin. Ideally IB members must receive (and acknowledge) the proposed changes at least 30 days before meeting or agreeing, however during an IJSO competition this time requirement may be reduced to 2 days.



