



**ASTRONOMY.
OLYMPIAD.CH**

ASTRONOMIE-OLYMPIADE
OLYMPIADES D'ASTRONOMIE
OLIMPIADI DELL'ASTRONOMIA

Regulations

Astronomy Olympiad

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1 General Remarks

By participating in the Astronomy Olympiad, you agree to our rules of participation (section 2) and our privacy policy (section 3).

The implementation of all events (listed in sections 4 and 5), and the participation in international competitions is the sole competence of the Astronomy Olympiad. There is no claim for compensation in case of cancellations.

2 Participation

2.1 Conditions for Participation

You may participate in the *national rounds* of the Astronomy Olympiad if you:

- haven't begun university (or other similar higher studies) by August of the year of the final round.
- attend a school in Switzerland or Liechtenstein (secondary school, vocational school, international school, etc.).
- have registered on the website with truthful details.

To take part in the *International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)*, you must fulfill all criteria above, as well as be less than 20 years old on July 1st of the year of the final round.

In *unclear situations or for special cases*, the board may grant exceptions. Contact astronomy@olympiad.ch in such cases.

2.2 Participation Costs

The participation is free of charge.

The Astronomy Olympiad covers 2nd class (public transport) travel costs within Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. For international competitions, the travel costs abroad are also covered.

The Astronomy Olympiad covers the subsistence costs (food and accomodation) at preparatory events and competitions in Switzerland and abroad.

2.3 Insurance

Participants are responsible for ensuring that they are adequately insured. Health and accident insurance as well as personal liability insurance are obligatory. When travelling abroad, it must be ensured in good time that the insurance cover also applies there.

2.4 Respect

The participants must treat each other and the organisers with respect. Violence, bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment and assault are not tolerated. Disrespectful and improper conduct must be reported to the organisers.

2.5 Awareness Team

It is important to us that all participants and volunteers feel comfortable at the Astronomy Olympiad. If you feel uncomfortable or need advice, please contact the Awareness Team: the trained members and their email addresses can be found on our website. We take your complaints and reports seriously and treat them confidentially. More information can be found in the awareness concept.

2.6 Events

Participation in all events is obligatory, unless stated otherwise.

The dates in the agenda of events (examinations, lessons, excursions, meals, ...) are binding. The instructions of the organisers are to be followed.

Outside of the binding dates, each participant can arrange their leisure time individually and unsupervised, as long as the organisers do not impose specific restrictions (e.g. certain areas might be designated off-limits, or participants may be required to stay in groups).

Possession and consumption of illegal drugs is prohibited. Alcohol and tobacco may only be possessed and consumed to the extent permitted by local law (observe foreign regulations!). The management may further restrict the possession and consumption of alcohol and tobacco otherwise permitted by local law. Any excess consumption of alcohol (intoxication drinking) is strictly prohibited.

As a rule, the sleeping areas must be kept quiet between 22:30 and 07:00.

Should minors leave the event prematurely, the legal representative must be informed immediately.

In case of emergency, participants are obliged to assist one another, and organisers must be contacted immediately.

2.7 Cancellation and Waiver of Further Participation

Participants may waive further participation, provided they cancel their registration in time.

Participants who cancel less than ten days before an event without good reason (e.g. illness, accident, death) or who stay away without excuse must expect to pay a service charge of up to CHF 100 and may require to pay damages. For events abroad, the cancellation period is thirty days and the service charge CHF 300.

The first round is the only exception of this cancellation regulation, i.e. no cancellation fee is charged.

For the purpose of the cancellation fee, participation in one event does not constitute registration for a subsequent event.

2.8 Expelling and Exclusion

Participants who do not follow the rules or behave improperly may be expelled from events and excluded from further participation altogether.

2.9 Results of Work and Rights of Use

The participants will hand over all the results of their work from the trainings and the national and international competitions to the Astronomy Olympiad. The participants grant the Astronomy Olympiad free of charge the right to use the results of their work not limited in time or place. The Astronomy Olympiad will ensure as far as possible that the author of work results is named in publications.

2.10 Cancellation of Events

The implementation of all events, and the participation in international competitions is the sole competence of the Astronomy Olympiad. There is no claim for compensation in case of cancellations.

2.11 Limitation of Liability

The Astronomy Olympiad and its organisers exclude contractual liability to the extent permitted by law. Legal recourse is excluded.

2.12 Assessments and Admissions

The decisions of the Astronomy Olympiad and its jurors on admissions and assessments are final. Reviews by third parties or courts of law will not be considered.

2.13 Applicable Law and Place of Jurisdiction

Swiss law is applicable to the relationship between participants and the Astronomy Olympiad. The place of jurisdiction is Zürich.

3 Privacy Policy

These guidelines define what we - the Astronomy Olympiad and the Science Olympiad (umbrella organisation) - may do with your submissions, contact information and images, and what information we may publish and share with third parties. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please contact us at astronomy@olympiad.ch.

3.1 Registration Details

While participating, we will ask you for personal details such as your name, date of birth, gender, address, city of residence, e-mail, telephone number, language skills, school, and teacher. We use this information for the following purposes:

- **Contact** Before, during and after your participation, you will receive information by e-mail or by post. If you do not wish to receive any information from us later, just let us know.
- **Schools** We ask you about your school and about your teacher so we can send them our informational material in the following years. We inform them about your participation only if you have put in an excellent performance (qualified for the final, medal, etc.).
- **Media** We only provide your contact information (residential address, telephone number and e-mail) to the media with your explicit permission.
- **Third parties** Together with our hosting providers, we strive to keep your data safe and to protect our website and databases as well as possible from access by third parties and misuse. Your data will only be passed on to trustworthy third parties who help us fulfill our tasks directly (e.g. our newsletter partner or our printing company for mail order). Otherwise, we will not share your contact information with third parties such as our support partners without your consent.

3.2 Particularly Sensitive Personal Data

For participation in our events and for travelling to international Olympiad events, we will ask you about your dietary habits and health information, for ID numbers, passport photos, passport copies and visa details, as well as contact details for emergencies. We treat this information as strictly confidential and only pass it on to third parties where necessary, for example to airlines, to embassies for visa applications, or to local organisers for menu planning.

3.3 Photos and Videos

At our events and on journeys, we take photographs and film material to capture impressions of the Olympiad. We put these in online photo and video galleries and may label them with your name. We use them for our printed material and display them at our events. We reserve the right to allow third parties (such as the media and support partners) to take pictures and film recordings, and/or use photos and videos made by us. If you do not wish to have any photographs taken or films recorded at our events, please let us know in advance in writing at astronomy@olympiad.ch.

3.4 Competition Data

We store the results of all written exams in our internal archive. For the final round, we will make your exam submissions as well as our corrections available to you. We do not publish your exam submissions, but reserve the right to use them for internal training purposes.

3.5 Rankings

For each of our competition rounds, we create a ranking list with your name and region, as well as your score, award and ranking. We make these ranking lists publicly accessible on our website

for an unlimited period. It is our opinion that a position at the lower end of the ranking is also an excellent achievement. The Olympiad idea “the important thing is taking part” is what counts.

3.6 Media Releases and Reports

During and after examinations, travels and camps, we prepare media releases and other types of reports consisting of the results, photographs and quotes from the participants. We publish these online and send them to the media, schools and our support partners.

3.7 Website Usage

On our website, we use cookies to analyse visitor behaviour. These are independent of your user profile and are not linked by us. The data protection regulations for the website can be found under the following link: <https://science.olympiad.ch/footernavigation/disclaimer/>.

3.8 Changes

We reserve the right to revise these guidelines twice a year. However, we will never extend the scope of use of recorded data beyond what was previously agreed.

4 Competition Procedure

4.1 First Round

All individuals who fulfill the conditions for participations (section 2) may participate in the first round of the Astronomy Olympiad. The exam must be taken online on our website and is available in German, French, Italian and English.

The link to the online exam is provided on our website during the examination period. All further instructions are given there.

4.1.1 Allowed aids

TODO: calculator, alone, ...

4.1.2 Duration and Content

The exam lasts 45 minutes. It consists of 20-30 questions (multiple-choice, multiple-true-false and numerical). The topics covered are defined in the syllabus.

4.2 Second Round

4.2.1 Qualification Criteria

The selection for the second round is based on the rank achieved in the first round. Up to roughly 25 participants are selected in total, the exact number is fixed by the board of the Astronomy Olympiad.

Wild-cards

Additionally, the board may grant wild-cards for the second round to participants that are close to but do not fulfill the standard qualification criteria. Not more than approximately 20% of the participants in the second round should qualify with a wild-card. Wild-cards may be granted to participants that fulfill one of the following criteria (non-exhaustive list):

- is from Liechtenstein
- may participate in the following year
- helps to balance the gender or language ratio
- attends a school that is generally underrepresented
- performed considerably worse than in previous years

4.2.2 Allowed aids

- Pen and paper, ruler, triangle ruler, compass
- a simple calculator (not graphical or programmable), the user memory of which should be cleared immediately prior to the exam

Anything **not mentioned** in the above list is **not** allowed.

We will provide a table of natural and astronomical constant, as well as a list of needed uncommon formulas.

4.2.3 Duration and Content

The exam consists of long problems and short problems, as well as multiple-choice questions and box questions. The duration is usually set for 250 minutes, unless otherwise stated in the invitation.

The topics covered are defined in the syllabus, which will be sent along with the invitation to the exam.

4.3 Selection of the International Team

The team sent to the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) consists of three to five members. The exact number of participants is set by the board at the beginning of the competition. They are selected based on the final round as follows:

The IOAA team consists of the best three to five participants who are willing to go to the IOAA and fulfill its participation criteria.

The participation criteria of IOAA can be found on its website (<https://www.ioaastrophysics.org>). They should normally match the participation criteria of the Astronomy Olympiad.

5 Preparation Events

The Astronomy Olympiad organises preparation events for the IOAA team after the final round. They consist of lectures and, if possible, practical training with telescopes and observation data.