



INTERNATIONAL QUANTUM OLYMPIAD

THINK QUANTUM · SOLVE QUANTUM

SINCE 2024 · QUANTUMOLYMPIAD.COM

Statutes, Rules & Regulations, and Committee Formation

Founding Governance Charter

Adopted by the IQO Central Committee

QuantumOlympiad.com

One Olympiad. One Global Movement.

IQO Secretariat

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Table of Contents

Preamble	1
The Quantum-Ready Generation	1
Digital Presence & Brand Architecture	1
Article 1 — Mission, Vision & Objectives	1
Article 2 — Governing Bodies & Committee Formation	2
Article 3 — Membership & Admission of New Countries	3
Article 4 — Eligibility of Participants	4
Article 5 — Competition Format	4
Article 6 — Code of Conduct & Academic Integrity	5
Article 7 — Grading Disputes & Appeals	5
Article 8 — Observers, Guests & Media	5
Article 9 — Amendments to this Charter	6
Contact & Custodianship	6

Preamble

The International Quantum Olympiad (IQO) is established in 2024 as the premier global academic competition dedicated to identifying, challenging, and celebrating young quantum talent — spanning quantum mechanics, quantum information, quantum computing, and quantum technologies. The IQO is founded on three commitments: academic rigour, procedural fairness, and international inclusiveness.

This Charter sets out the Olympiad's rules and regulations and defines the committees responsible for its governance, academic integrity, and delivery. It is the constitutional reference document for every Participating Country, host organiser, jury member, and volunteer associated with the IQO.

The Quantum-Ready Generation

Quantum computing, quantum mechanics, and quantum information theory are set to reshape industry, security, medicine, and discovery within the working lifetime of today's secondary-school students — yet almost no national curriculum in the world yet teaches them. The IQO exists to close that gap early. Where past generations were made "digital-ready" through computing education, the IQO's purpose is to cultivate a Quantum-Ready Generation: students who think in probabilities and superpositions as fluently as their predecessors thought in code, and who arrive at university already fluent in the discipline that will define the coming century. This is not merely a competition; it is the seed of a Think-and-Solve culture built to carry quantum literacy into mainstream education systems worldwide.

Digital Presence & Brand Architecture

The IQO operates under a single, unified digital domain, QuantumOlympiad.com, serving both its public identity and its formal governance functions without duplication or confusion: competition news, the Quantum-Ready Generation campaign, syllabus resources, media, and community outreach, alongside country registration, this Charter and its annexes, Jury and Central Committee records, and results archives.

All Olympiad activity, communication, and governance resolve to this single address, so that every visitor experiences one Olympiad, one Secretariat, and one set of Regulations.

Article 1 — Mission, Vision & Objectives

1.1 Mission

To advance the study of quantum science among Junior and Senior students worldwide by providing a rigorous, fair, and inspiring international competition, and to build a lasting global community of young quantum talent, educators, and researchers.

1.2 Objectives

- Identify and reward exceptional talent among Junior and Senior participants in quantum theory and its applications.

- Establish a common, internationally agreed syllabus and standard of assessment for quantum science across the Junior and Senior levels.
- Foster friendship, cultural exchange, and scientific collaboration among students, team leaders, and educators from different nations.
- Encourage the introduction and strengthening of quantum-science education and national olympiad programmes in Participating Countries.
- Provide a transparent, replicable governance model that can scale as new countries join.

Article 2 — Governing Bodies & Committee Formation

The IQO is governed through a distributed committee structure that separates policy, academic content, ethics, and delivery — ensuring no single body controls both the setting and the judging of results. The structure below is binding on every edition of the Olympiad.

2.1 IQO Central Committee (Board)

IQO Central Committee

The supreme governing authority of the Olympiad. Provides overall direction, approves the annual host, ratifies changes to these Regulations, and safeguards the Olympiad's finances and long-term strategy.

Composition: One senior delegate ("Country Representative") from each Participating Country, plus the elected President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, and Treasurer of the IQO. Meets in an Annual General Meeting held during the World Finals, with the authority to convene extraordinary sessions.

International Academic Committee (Problem & Jury Committee)

Sets, translates, and standardises the competition papers; determines the official marking scheme; leads the marking-coordination and moderation process with Coordinators; and rules on all matters of scientific and academic correctness.

Composition: A Chief Scientific Coordinator, a Deputy Coordinator, and a panel of Subject Matter Experts (quantum theory, quantum information & computing, experimental/applied quantum technology) nominated by the host institution and confirmed by the Central Committee. Coordinators join the Jury for problem approval and grade moderation, consistent with established international olympiad practice.

Ethics & Conduct Committee

Safeguards the integrity, fairness, and respectful conduct of all IQO activities; investigates allegations of misconduct, plagiarism, or breach of the Code of Conduct; and issues binding rulings, independent of the Academic Committee.

Composition: An odd number (minimum five) of members serving fixed, staggered terms, including at least one member with a legal or ethics-governance background, drawn from different Participating Countries to avoid conflicts of interest.

Curriculum & Syllabus Committee

Maintains and periodically expands the official IQO Syllabus, reviews proposals for new topics (e.g., quantum error correction, quantum sensing), and submits recommendations to the Central Committee and Jury for ratification.

Composition: A Chair appointed by the Central Committee, together with academics and past Coordinators nominated by Participating Countries, broadly representative of the Olympiad's regional membership.

Local Organising Committee (LOC)

Responsible for the on-the-ground delivery of the annual World Finals: venue, accommodation, logistics, safety, ceremonies, and hospitality for delegations, in the host country designated by the Central Committee.

Composition: Formed by the host institution/country for each edition, led by an LOC Chair who reports jointly to the Secretary-General and the Central Committee. Dissolved after the post-event report is accepted.

IQO Secretariat (Permanent Office)

Provides year-round administrative, financial, and IT continuity between editions: registrations, correspondence with Participating Countries, records, the official website, and archive of past problems and results.

Composition: A Secretary-General and supporting staff/volunteers, hosted by the founding organisation and accountable to the Central Committee.

International Quantum Olympiad Committee

The legal and financial custodian of the Olympiad's name, mark, and assets; holds sponsorship and donor funds in trust; and underwrites the long-term continuity of the Olympiad beyond any single host or edition.

Composition: A Board of Trustees comprising the IQO President, Treasurer, and independent trustees with financial, legal, or philanthropic expertise.

Article 3 — Membership & Admission of New Countries

3.1. A country wishing to join the IQO must notify the Secretariat and the Central Committee, preferably before 20 September of the year preceding the edition in which it intends to first send a delegation.

3.2. The applicant country must submit the official IQO New Country Questionnaire, describing its national quantum-science education activity and its capacity to select and prepare a national team.

3.3. Countries are strongly encouraged to establish a National Quantum Olympiad, or an equivalent national selection process, to identify their delegation on academic merit.

3.4. A new country may field a competing delegation from its very first edition; countries preferring a preparatory year may instead choose to first participate as an Observer, without fielding competing students, to gain familiarity with IQO procedures before their students compete.

3.5. Countries that choose the Observer route under Article 3.4 are guided by the official Guidelines for Observers and may attend Jury sessions in a non-voting capacity.

3.6. Admission of a new Participating Country requires Central Approval from the Central Committee.

Article 4 — Eligibility of Participants

4.1. Each team consists of three (3) student members, formed among friends, classmates, or peers, one of whom is designated the team's Team Leader. Each team is additionally guided by one Coordinator — a teacher nominated by the team's institute — who oversees the team's preparation and liaises with the IQO Secretariat before registration is submitted.

4.2. The IQO recognises two competition categories, and every team registers under the category matching its members' ages: the Junior Category, open to students aged 13 to 18 years by December of the competition year, enrolled in school or college (O'Level, A'Level, or equivalent secondary education); and the Senior Category, open to individuals aged 18 to 25 years by December of the competition year, including university students and non-enrolled participants.

4.3. Registration is completed by submitting the official IQO registration form in full, with accurate information for every team member. Each team member must provide a distinct, individual email address; shared or duplicate addresses are not accepted.

4.4. Teams selected through the national or regional selection process qualify to represent their country at the IQO Grand Finale.

4.5. Qualified teams must be registered and supported by a sponsoring entity — their institute, a government body, a corporate house, or an individual sponsor — to attend the Grand Finale.

4.6. One accompanying guest or guardian per delegation may attend the general programme upon separate registration, but may not attend Jury, grading, or contestant-only sessions.

Article 5 — Competition Format

5.1. The IQO is held annually as a World Grand Finale of approximately five (5) to nine (9) days, comprising theoretical and, where the host permits, experimental/applied problem sets.

5.2. The competition consists of two examination papers held on separate days, each not exceeding five (5) hours, covering topics announced by the Academic Committee ahead of each edition.

5.3. Problems are proposed by Participating Countries and the host Academic Committee, shortlisted by the International Academic Committee, and approved without amendment to their scientific content by the full Jury (Coordinators and Academic Committee) shortly before the competition. Student Team

Leaders do not receive the problems in advance and are informed of the competition papers only at the start of each examination session.

5.4. Marking is conducted jointly by Adjudicators and Coordinators from the host country; disputes are resolved through the moderation and appeals process set out in Article 7.

5.5. Results are classified into Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals and Honourable Mentions, awarded to a fixed proportion of contestants in line with established olympiad conventions (approximately the top 50% receiving a medal, split roughly 1:2:3 across Gold:Silver:Bronze).

Article 6 — Code of Conduct & Academic Integrity

- All contestants, leaders, and observers must act with honesty, mutual respect, and fairness at all times.
- Unauthorised communication about problem content prior to the official release, or any form of collusion, plagiarism, or use of prohibited materials during examinations, is strictly prohibited.
- Coordinators and Jury members who receive problems in advance are bound by strict confidentiality until the papers are formally released to contestants.
- Any participant may raise a concern with the Ethics & Conduct Committee in confidence and without fear of reprisal.
- Breaches may result in sanctions ranging from a formal warning to disqualification of the individual or, in serious cases, suspension of the Participating Country's membership, subject to due process.

Article 7 — Grading Disputes & Appeals

7.1. A Coordinator may request re-grading of their team's scripts within the timeframe set by the Jury schedule, by raising the matter directly with the assigned Adjudicator.

7.2. Unresolved disputes between a Coordinator and an Adjudicator are referred to the Chief Scientific Coordinator, and if still unresolved, to a vote of the full Jury.

7.3. Jury decisions on marking are final. Decisions of the Ethics & Conduct Committee may be appealed once, in writing, to the Central Committee.

Article 8 — Observers, Guests & Media

8.1. Observers — including prospective new countries exercising the Observer option under Article 3.4, past hosts, and academic partners — may attend non-confidential sessions upon registration with the Secretariat, with no minimum waiting period required before a country may progress to a competing delegation.

8.2. Media and sponsor representatives may attend the opening and closing ceremonies and public programme, subject to accreditation by the Local Organising Committee.

Article 9 — Amendments to this Charter

9.1. Amendments to these Regulations may be proposed by any Participating Country, the Academic Committee, or the Ethics & Conduct Committee.

9.2. Amendments require a two-thirds majority of the Central Committee and take effect from the edition following their adoption, unless a later date is specified.

Contact & Custodianship

This Charter is maintained by the IQO Secretariat on behalf of the Central Committee and the International Quantum Olympiad Committee, and is published in full alongside the official New Country Questionnaire and Guidelines for Observers.

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Published by: IQO Secretariat