



**PHYSICS.
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English

Regulations

Physics Olympiad

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Section 1

General remarks

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

In case of ambiguity between the translations, the English version applies.

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

Section 2

Rules of participation

2.1 Rules of Participation

You may participate in the *first round* of the Physics Olympiad if you:

- haven't begun university by July of the year of the final round.
- have registered on the website or by form with truthful details.

You may participate in the *preparation camps and the second round* of the Physics Olympiad if you fulfill all the previous points, as well as:

- attend a school in Switzerland or Liechtenstein (secondary school, vocational school, international school, etc.), are Swiss or Liechtenstein citizen or have your official residence in Switzerland or Liechtenstein.
- be less than 21 years old on 30 June of the year of the final round. (Example: To participate in the Physics Olympiad 2023/24 you have to be born on or after the 01.07.2003)

You may participate in the *final round* of the Physics Olympiad if you fulfill all the previous points, as well as attend a school in Switzerland or Liechtenstein (secondary school, vocational school, international school, etc.). The board may grant exceptions.

To take part in the *European Physics Olympiad (EuPhO)*, no additional criteria apply.

To take part in the *International Physics Olympiad (IPhO)*, you must be no more than 20 years old on 30 June of the year of the IPhO (Example: To participate in IPhO 2024 you have to be born on or after the 30.06.2004).

In *unclear situations or for special cases* (such as military service, civil service or if you don't attend a school in Switzerland or Liechtenstein) the board may grant exceptions.

Contact board.physics@olympiad.ch in these cases.

2.2 Participation costs

The participation is free of charge.

The Physics Olympiad covers 2nd class (public transport) travel costs within Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein as well as for international competitions abroad.

The Physics Olympiad covers the subsistence costs (food and accommodation) 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 Events

Participation in all events is obligatory, unless otherwise stated.

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 may be designated out of reach while other areas may require a chaperon).

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 of alcohol (intoxication drinking) is 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.

2.6 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 be required 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 purposes of this cancellation fee, participation in one event does not constitute registration for a subsequent event.

2.7 Expelling and exclusion

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

2.8 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 Physics Olympiad. The participants grant the Physics Olympiad free of charge the right to use the results of their work not limited in time or place. The Physics Olympiad will ensure as far as possible that the author of work results is named in publications.

2.9 Cancellation of events

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

2.10 Limitation of liability

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

2.11 Assessments and admissions

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

2.12 Applicable law and place of jurisdiction

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

Section 3

Privacy policy

These guidelines define what we - the Physics Olympiad and the Science Olympiad (umbrella organization) - 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 physics@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 materials 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 fulfil 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 physics@olympiad.ch.

3.4 Competition data

We store the results of all written exams in our internal archive. For the second and final round we will make your exam submissions, as well as our corrections, available to you. We do not publish your exam submissions, but we 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 Olympic 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 analyze visitor behavior. 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/footer/navigation/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 that previously agreed.

Section 4

Competition procedure

4.1 First round

All individuals, who fulfill the rules of participation (section 2), may participate in the first round of the Physics Olympiad. The exam can be taken online on our website or on paper at school. The exam can be taken in German, French, Italian or English.

4.1.1 Online

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

4.1.2 On paper

Teachers who prefer the mailing by post will receive the first-round exam on paper. The teachers carry out the exam during the classes and send it to the Physics Olympiad. The students are supervised by the teachers.

4.1.3 Allowed aids

- All aids are allowed (i.e. Physics book, calculator, Internet, etc.)
- The exam has to be solved alone, **without** any help of other people!

4.1.4 Duration and content

The exam lasts 40 minutes, online as well as on paper. 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 120 participants are selected in total, the exact number is fixed by the board of the Swiss Physics Olympiad.

4.2.1.1 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 (not exclusively):

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

4.2.2 Allowed aids

- pen and paper, ruler, triangle ruler and compass
- a simple calculator. (A calculator is allowed if it is not a graphical or programmable calculator, and if its user memory is completely cleared immediately prior to each exam.)
- formularies (books containing formulas) are **not** allowed

4.2.3 Duration and content

The exam has two parts:

- **Multiple-choice:** 60 minutes - around 22 short multiple-choice questions
- **Word-problems:** 120 minutes - three longer word-problems

The topics covered are defined in the syllabus.

4.3 Final round

4.3.1 Qualification criteria

The selection for the final round is based entirely on the rank achieved in the second round. At most 28 participants are selected, the exact number is fixed by the board of the Swiss Physics Olympiad.

4.3.1.1 Wild-cards

The board may grant few wild-cards for the final round to participants from Liechtenstein, that do not fulfill the standard selection criteria.

4.3.2 Allowed aids

- pen and paper, ruler, triangle ruler and compass
- a simple calculator. (A calculator is allowed if it is not a graphical calculator, its display has no more than three lines, and if its user memory is completely cleared immediately prior to each exam.)
- formularies (books containing formulas) are **not** allowed

4.3.3 Duration and content

The exam has three parts:

- **Experiments:** 150 minutes - generally two experimental problems
- **Short word-problems:** 60 minutes - six short word-problems
- **Long word-problems:** 150 minutes - three long word-problems

The topics covered are defined in the syllabus.

4.4 Selection of international teams

The teams sent to the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) and the European Physics Olympiad (EuPhO) consist each of a maximum of five members. They are selected based on the results in the final round as follows:

- The IPhO-team consists of the best five participants that are willing to go to the IPhO and fulfill its participation criteria (i.e. are less than 20 years old the 30 June of the year of the IPhO).
- The five members of the EuPhO-team are selected in the following order among the students fulfilling the EuPhO participation criteria:
 - Gold-medalists (up to rank 5), who are not able to go to IPhO.
 - the next best medalists (up to rank 15), who are not going to IPhO and that fulfill the participation criteria of IPhO the following year.
 - the next best medalists (up to rank 15), who are not going to IPhO.
 - if the team is not compete with these criteria, the board may nominate additional participants.
- Participants from Liechtenstein are selected by a representative from Liechtenstein and form a separate team.

Section 5

Preparation camps

5.1 Physics camp

The Physics camp takes place between the first and the second round and lasts one week.

5.1.1 Participants

Participants qualified for the second round can register for the camp on a first-come first-served basis. There are about 70 places available. If there are free places left other participants of the first round may be allowed to participate (in case of interest, contact physics@olympiad.ch).

5.1.2 Content

- Lectures, with focus on theory
- Time to solve exercises
- Excursion

5.2 EPFL training camp

The EPFL training camp takes place between the second and the final round and lasts for 3-4 days.

5.2.1 Participants

All participants qualified for the final round can attend the EPFL training camp. If there are free places left other participants of the second round may be allowed to participate (in case of interest, contact physics@olympiad.ch).

5.2.2 Content

- Lectures, with focus on experiments and advanced topics which were not covered in the Physics camp
- Electronics laboratory
- Laboratory for training on former Olympiad experiments

5.3 Team training

After the final round there are theoretical and experimental trainings offered for the IPhO and EuPhO teams.