

## STATUTES OF THE EUROPEAN PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

**§1** European Physics Olympiad (EuPhO) is aimed to promote physics education and creativity in physics among European pre-university students, and facilitate international contacts between young physicists.

**§2** EuPhO is organized annually by one of the **European countries (specified in Appendix A)**, in collaboration with the Academic Committee of EuPhO. EuPhO is open to guest teams from other continents. The organiser, in consultation with the AC, announces the maximum possible number of teams one year in advance and decides on the acceptance of guest teams to the EuPhO.

**§3** The Academic Committee (AC) of EuPhO is a stationary body consisting of seven or more members, including the President of EuPhO. The AC members are responsible for (a) making new problem proposals; (b) discussing and amending the problems from the shortlist; (c) selecting a balanced set of problems for the contest; (d) grading the solutions of the contestants and participating in moderations during the Olympiad; (e) promoting EuPhO and assisting the EuPhO hosts; (f) keeping a strict confidentiality about the problems shortlist.

Rotation of the AC members is based on the following merit system. Inactive members retire or suspend their membership. Anyone submitting a problem proposal becomes a member candidate; the merits of the member candidates are quantified as the number of submitted high-quality problem proposals; the merits expire in five years. New members are nominated by the existing AC when needed, but at least once in two years assuming that there is a member candidate with five or more merits, from the list of the most meritorious member candidates.

The problem proposals are to be sent to the President of EuPhO; this can be done throughout the year.

For the production of experimental kits and for the grading of examination papers the organizers may nominate additional persons to form an Extended AC (EAC) including those persons and the AC members.

**§4** Typically, the duration of the competition is five days; the days 2-4 are for theoretical and experimental examinations in arbitrary order, and for the moderation. Organizers are encouraged to fill the free time of contestants with educational events such as a career fair and/or popular physics lectures.

**§5** Each country can send a team of up to five students (contestants), and a team leader. The host country can send a second team that participates as a guest team. Each delegation can also send one or more observers. The official language of EuPhO is English; if needed, the team leader translates the problems into the native language of his/her team members, and acts as a translator during moderations.

If there is more than one institution from a single country willing to send a team, these institutions are advised to collaborate. In the case of disputes, priority is given to the institution organizing preselection competitions of wider national coverage.

**§6** Organizers provide: accommodation for all the delegations during four nights; meals, and if needed, local transportation during the competition; tools and rooms for the examinations, moderations, and board meetings; experimental problem sets. The expenses are partially covered by the participation fees. For official teams (i.e. teams from Europe), the fee is 250€ per person, and for guest teams — 350€ per person. All the observers pay the full fee of 350€. The fees can be revised, if deemed necessary by the organisers and accepted by the AC. Changes to the fees will be announced one year in advance.

**§7** The contestants should not have commenced their university studies, and their age in years (truncated to an integer) should not exceed 20 on June 30th of the year of the competition.

If an educational institution cannot be clearly classified as a high school, a student is considered to be eligible if less than half of his/her lectures (in average for the last two years) have been on topics related either to physics or mathematics.

**§8** The theoretical examination consists of three problems; the experimental examination consists of one or two problems. The duration of both examinations is five hours. The theoretical problems are prepared by the AC; the experimental problems are designed by the EAC while keeping in mind the budget and resources available to the organizers; the experimental kits are produced by the organizers. The problems should be such that no skills beyond the Syllabus of the International Physics Olympiad would be needed to solve the tasks. **The contestants may use non-graphical, non-programmable calculators with cleared memory.**

**§9** Preliminary grading is done by the EAC. The preliminary grades are distributed prior to the moderations. During moderations, students can appeal their grades; those who do appeal will get an opportunity to discuss the grading with the graders, during up to five minutes per problem. In exceptionally complicated cases, the discussion time can be extended. During moderation, the grades can be raised, and if a major grading mistake is found, also lowered. If a consensus cannot be reached, the final grade is decided by the AC.

**§10** Final grades are used to make the ranking list of the contestants from the official teams (official contestants — OC). Based on the ranking list, the award thresholds expressed in points are established so that the thresholds are as high as possible while guaranteeing that:

- (a) Gold Medals will be awarded at least to 8% of the OC;
- (b) Gold or Silver Medals will be awarded at least to 25% of the OC;
- (c) A medal of any colour will be awarded at least to 50% of the OC;
- (d) A Medal or Honourable Mention will be awarded at least to 67% of the OC.

The established thresholds will be applied to all the contestants, including the ones from the guest teams.

**§11** The ranking list of the award winners together with their scores is published on the EuPhO web site. The names of those contestants who did not receive any award will be listed in an alphabetical order, without indicating their final score. By attending the EuPhO, contestants agree with the publication of their names on the EuPhO web site (in the case of underage contestants, the attendance implies the agreement of their legal guardians).

**§12** The governing body of the EuPhO is its Council which consists of the team leaders of the official teams attending the current Olympiad, and of the AC members. The Council can make changes to the Statutes, if 2/3 of the members are voting, and if the changes are supported by at least 2/3 of those who voted. The Council can make any other decisions if 2/3 of the members are voting, and if the motion is supported by more than half of those who voted.

During the inter-Olympiad periods, the right to make decisions regarding topics not covered by the Statutes is transferred to the AC. The task of the President of EuPhO is to guarantee a seamless operation of the AC. The President is elected by the Council for a five-year period from the members of the AC.

**§13** Participation in a EuPhO signifies acceptance of the present Statutes by the institution responsible for sending the delegation.

**Appendix A** The following countries are considered as European countries: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vatican City