



INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD (IEO) - 2020 IEO OPEN TRACK SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

1. Introduction, Motivation and Precedent

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. According to our Statute (*accessible on <https://ecolymp.org/statute>*), paragraphs 1.1 and 2.3.3, the International Economics Olympiad (IEO) is an intellectual competition aimed specifically at high-schoolers, with a determined age and education level range for participation eligibility. For the purpose of these Specific Regulations, this main mode of participation is hereinafter referred to as the *Main Track*.

1.1.2. The Open Track was proposed by the President and Secretary of the Executive Board (EB) and is being realized and operationalized by a specific group of specialists drawn from members of the EB and of the IEOx Community, hereby referred to as the IEO Open Track Workgroup.

1.2. Motivation

1.2.1. The motivation of the Open Track is to offer an alternative mode of participation to a wider audience, parallel to the Main Track, with more relaxed conditions, as a demonstration of the IEO's activities. The principles behind this initiative are as follows:

- to offer a way for a wider audience, which would otherwise not be eligible for participation on the Main Track, to test their knowledge;
- to provide an additional means of *active observation* of the IEO's processes to representatives of prospective national Olympiads;
- to establish an intermediate step between being an outsider and a full member of the IEO Community, for both prospective contestants and Olympiad organizers.

1.2.2. The intended audiences for the Open Track are mainly:

- school pupils younger than high school age, thus not yet eligible for participation in the Main Track, but who are already interested in Economics;
- contestants of National Olympiads who were not selected to their respective Delegations in the given year;
- individuals older than the eligible age for participation in the Main Track (as per Statute, 2.3.3) who are also interested in the IEO's subject matter

and would like to have a taste of it, test their knowledge, and learn something new;

- prospective organizers of National Olympiads who are observers at the IEO, who would thus be given a means of *active observation* and a direct channel of communication with the IEO Community, on an intermediate level between being an outsider and a full-fledged member of it, which would help them structure their respective competitions in accordance with the IEO's requirements for the acceptance of 1-Year and even 3-Year Agreements.

With that said, anyone of any age and background can participate.

1.3. Precedent

1.3.1. Precedent for such a mode of participation can be found in some National Olympiads throughout the world. This is a non-exhaustive list in alphabetical order.

1.3.1.1. Brazil. The Brazilian Economics Olympiad (OBECON), a National Olympiad with an active 3-year agreement with the IEO, has the permanent Open Category (*Categoria Aberta*), detailed in paragraph 3. of their Regulations ([link](#) - in Portuguese);

1.3.1.2. All of OBECON's sister Olympiads, such as the Brazilian Linguistics Olympiad (OBL), Sapientia and the Brazilian Medicine Olympiad (OBMed - Vitalis), governed by the same host organization (Instituto Vertere) and composing the Brazilian branch of the so-called *Olympic League*, an international fellowship of Olympiad organizers, follow a similar structure, there always being an analogous way for anyone to participate, no matter their age or educational background, with the caveat of being ineligible for participation in their respective International Olympiads;

1.3.2.1. China. The International Economics Olympiad China (IEOC), hosted by The International Teenager Competition and Communication Center (ITCCC), due to the coronavirus pandemic which struck their country first of all in the world, decided to develop the so-called Open Round, wherein the IEOC was made open to all schools and their respective pupils all over the country. There were over a thousand contestants, and special proctoring procedures were adopted in order to ensure exam security and integrity. The ITCCC kept constant contact with the participating schools, providing them with detailed operational information for the correct organization of test-taking. More information can be found at the IEOC's website ([link](#) - in Mandarin), and a full specific report, ceded by them to the IEO Open Track Workgroup, can be requested for appreciation.

1.3.2. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and all the reformulation of educational activities it has caused, with the boom of online technology it brought about, it has become our intention, as the IEO Executive Board (EB),

to set this good precedent within the International Olympiad community, with the goal of making our material and activities available to a wider audience, thus broadcasting our message of high-performance education and community-building around knowledge. It has become evident that this can be done through the manifold online platforms that have developed and quickly evolved throughout the worldwide lockdown period.

2. Participation and Registration

2.1. Participation in the Open Track is unrestricted: one does not have to fulfill the criteria stated on paragraph 2.3.3 of the Statute in order to be eligible.

2.1.1. Registration is operationalized by means of an online form ([link](#)), which collects the following personal information directly necessary for participation: country of origin, name(s), date(s) of birth, e-mail address(es), phone number(s), and, (optionally) institution represented.

2.1.2. The aforementioned data are stored indefinitely in the IEO's database, except for phone numbers, which can be deleted upon request (at registration) after the event is over.

2.2 Registration can be undergone either as an individual or as a previously formed team.

2.2.1. If a contestant registers as an individual, they are entered into a pool out of which teams will be formed by the IEO Open Track Workgroup using such criteria as age and country of origin.

2.2.2. If a contestant registers as the representative of a formed team, the structure of the team is analogous to that of a National Delegation on the Main Track, as per the Statute, paragraph 2.3.2.

2.2.3. Whether registering as an individual or as a formed team, there is an optional field for the contestant to state which institution they represent, if any.

2.3. (Appended August 26th, 2020) Registration for the Open Track closes by default at the mark of 96 hours before the start of the Olympiad.

2.3.1. The IEO Open Track Workgroup reserves itself the prerogative to close registration before that, should the number of contestants exceed a predetermined threshold after which the system put in place for the event would be unscalable on short notice.

3. On Activities and Material

3.1. Open Track contestants will be invited to watch the YouTube livestream of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, but will not participate in them directly.

3.1.1. With that said, the Open Track will be mentioned at both Ceremonies, and a brief time slot is reserved at the Closing Ceremony for a show of its results.

3.2. Open Track contestants will be able to participate in the three main academic activities in the IEO: the Financial Literacy Game, Economics Test, and Business Case.

3.2.1. Open Track contestants compete in a category of their own, parallel to the Main Track, with its own score and normalization.

3.2.2. Each of the aforementioned activities will take place in the same time slots as the Main Track, for the sake of both isonomy and exam security and integrity.

3.3. The material (content of the activities as listed on Paragraph 3.2) is the same as in the Main Track (see Syllabus for detailed description - [link](#)), but test-taking (see Paragraph 5.) and evaluation (Paragraph 6.) procedures differ.

4. On Infrastructure

4.1. The Open Track will take place online this year and its schedule will run in parallel with the Main Track's.

4.2. The Open Track's infrastructure consists of a section of the IEO Online Campus on [Discord](#) for communication and coworking, a number of parallel auditoria on [Zoom](#) sufficient for the throughput of all contestants, and a file handling system on [Google Drive](#), as well as proprietary IEO software.

4.2.1. Detailed instructions on the purpose and use of each of these platforms, and how they fit together into a cohesive system that composes the Open Track's infrastructure, will be made available to the contestants and the IEO Community as a whole in a timely manner.

5. On Test-taking Procedures

5.1. Proctoring procedures for exam security and integrity will be present on the Open Track, but they are more relaxed in nature and less advanced technologically than the ones applied to the Main Track, considering the differing natures of both Tracks and the stakes of competition on each.

5.1.1. The Financial Literacy Game will run on the same proprietary server as the Main Track, with the same server-side security measures in place but different user-side proctoring, which is simplified.

5.1.2. The Economics Test will be held in parallel auditoria on Zoom, with their exact number scaled as a function of the amount of contestants, so as to allow for a proctor-to-pupil ratio adequate for exam security.

5.1.2.1. There is successful precedent for this form of test-taking: the Second Round of OBECON (see 1.3.1.1.), consisting of a written test with multiple choice questions and open question lasting 4 hours, was held in this manner this year, for both the Official Category (*Categoria Oficial* - analogous to the IEO's Main Track)

and the Open Category, with a total of 154 students distributed across 4 classrooms with 2 proctors each.

5.1.3. The Business Case resolution, with the group work that it entails, will be organized in private Workstations (which consist of a text chat and a high-performance video conference room) on the IEO's Online Campus on Discord, with each group also having a private directory for file handling on Google Drive. The final presentation will be held in an auditorium on Zoom and shall be recorded.

5.1.3.1. There is successful precedent for this form of test-taking: the Final Round of OBECON, an intense four-day event centered around the resolution of a business case,, was held in this manner this year, for both Categories, with a total of 35 students distributed across 7 groups.

5.1.3.2. The contestants will be offered the chance to test the Zoom auditorium, so as to familiarize themselves with its functionality, in a timely manner, before their final presentation.

5.2. Besides detailed instructions about each of the platforms and how they fit together, there shall be on-duty personnel working in shifts throughout the event to provide synchronous technical support. Their schedule and roster will be made known to the contestants, as well as procedures on how to obtain technical support asynchronously outside of shift hours.

5.2.1. The shift schedule will be optimized so as to cover GMT (Greenwich Mean Time, also known as Universal Coordinated Time - UTC - and Zulu Time) hours from 10:00 to 22:00.

6. On Correction, Evaluation and Moderation

6.1. Definitions

6.1.1. Correction is hereby understood as any score assessment which has no final subjective element to it, namely the Financial Literacy Game's scoring system and the answer key to the multiple choice questions in the Economics Test.

6.1.2. Evaluation is hereby understood as score assessments which do possess subjectivity, namely the open questions on the Economics Test and the Business Case resolution.

6.1.3. Moderation is hereby understood as the appealing procedures that relate to either correction (disputing the scoring system on the Financial Literacy Game or the correct answer on a multiple choice question) or evaluation (disputing one's individual score on an open question or one's individual or group score on the Business Case resolution).

6.2. Procedures

6.2.1. The Financial Literacy Game and the multiple choice questions on the Economics Test will be graded automatically.

6.2.2. The open questions on the Economics Test and the Business Case resolution will be graded by means of peer-grading with the official rubrics provided by the IEO Problem Committee and Jury.

6.2.2.1. Peer-grading will be so construed so as to ensure integrity of the process and avoid conflicts of interest.

6.2.3. In terms of Correction, any changes in the Economics Test's official answer key or the Financial Literacy Game's scoring system, brought about after Moderation on the Main Track, will be retroactively applied to the Open Track as well. Otherwise, Open Track contestants will **not** be able to appeal the result of peer-graded Evaluation.

7. On Awards and Certification

7.1. Open Track contestants will earn a specific Certificate, in which the Open Track's status as a free, relaxed demonstration of the IEO is highlighted, with their individual and team score and ranking within their category.

7.2. Open Track contestants are not eligible for medals or trophies.

8. Closing Remarks

8.1. With the creation of the Open Track, we reiterate our commitment to making Economics, Finance and Business education available to an ever wider audience, our intention to create a good precedent in the International Economics Olympiad community, and our efforts to strengthen the bonds that bring the IEO Community together.

8.2. These Specific Regulations refer only to the IEO-2020. Later, they may be changed pending detailed review by the EB. This current version of the document is dated **August 26th, 2020** and replaces any previous iterations.

8.2.1. History of Changes

i. August 24th, 2020: first official version of document.

ii. August 26th, 2020: added information about registration closure (Paragraph 2.3.).

8.3. The EB has the last word on the interpretation of these Specific Regulations, and any cases of conflicting readings shall be solved in the general spirit of the Statute.

8.4. The IEO Open Track Workgroup can be directly reached at OpenTrack@ecolymp.org, and will officially answer any questions that may arise from reading these Regulations.

IEO Executive Board and IEO Open Track Workgroup, August 26th, 2020.



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