INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD (IEO) 2024
OPENTRACK SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

1. Introduction

1.1. According to the IEO Articles of Association, Paragraph 1.2. and the IEO Regulations of Competition, Paragraph 2.7.3., the International Economics Olympiad (IEO) is an intellectual competition designed specifically for high school students, with specific conditions for participation eligibility.

> **1.1.1.** In the present document, the IEO 2024 OpenTrack Specific Regulations, the main mode of participation described in the documents above is referred to as the *MainTrack*, in contrast with the *OpenTrack* as described hereinafter.

1.2. The OpenTrack was proposed by the President and the Secretary of the Executive Board (EB) in 2020, in the wake of the covid-19 crisis, and is implemented by a group of professionals drawn from members of the Executive Board (EB), International Board (IB), IEO Alumni, the IEOx Community, and the wider Economics education public, hereby referred to as the IEO OpenTrack Team.

1.3. The *raison d'être* of the OpenTrack is to offer an alternative mode of participation to a wider audience parallel to the MainTrack, with more relaxed conditions, as a demonstration of the IEO's activities. The principles behind this initiative are as follows:

- to enable a **wider audience**, which would otherwise not be eligible for participation on the MainTrack, to test their knowledge in Economics, Finance, and Business;
- 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 IEO structures and the IEOx Community, for both prospective contestants and Olympiad organizers.

1.4. The intended audiences for the OpenTrack are mainly:

- students **younger** than high school age, thus not yet eligible for participation in the MainTrack, but who are already interested in Economics;
- contestants of national Olympiads who were **not selected** for their respective Delegations in the given year;
- individuals **older** than the eligible age for participation in the MainTrack (as per IEO Regulations of Competition 2.7.3.) who are also interested in the IEO's subject matter and would like to try it out, 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 and the IEOx 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.

2. On Registration and Participation

2.1. Participation in the OpenTrack is unrestricted: one does not have to fulfill the criteria stated in IEO Regulations of Competition 2.7.3. in order to be eligible.

2.1.1. Registration is operationalized by means of an online form, which collects personal information directly necessary for participation, such as country of citizenship/residency, name(s), date(s) of birth, email address(es), phone number(s), and, (optionally) institution represented.

2.1.2. The aforementioned data are stored indefinitely in the IEO's database, except personal identification and contact details, which can be deleted upon request after the event is over.

2.2 Registration can be undergone either as an individual or as a 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 OpenTrack Team using such criteria as age and location.

2.3. Registration for the OpenTrack opens by default a month and a half and closes by default four days before the start of the Olympiad.

2.3.1. The IEO OpenTrack Team reserves itself the prerogative to close registration before that, should the number of registered Contestants exceed 10000.

2.4. In the week prior to the beginning of the IEO, Contestants registered on the OpenTrack will be reminded of their registration via email and other communication channels, to gauge their intention to participate.

3. On Activities and Material

3.1. OpenTrack Contestants will be able to watch the live streams of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, as well as those of guest lectures and assorted activities where possible.

3.2. OpenTrack Contestants participate in the three main rounds of the IEO: Economics (Econ), Financial Literacy (FL), and the Business Case (BC).

> **3.2.1.** OpenTrack Contestants compete in a category of their own, parallel to the MainTrack, with its own scoring and normalization.

3.3. The material (content of the rounds as listed in Paragraph 3.2. above) is the same as in the MainTrack (see the IEO Syllabus for a detailed description), but examination (see Paragraph 5. below) and grading (Paragraph 6. below) procedures may differ.

4. On Infrastructure

4.1. The OpenTrack takes place online and its general schedule runs in tandem with the MainTrack's.

> **4.1.1.** The rounds (see Paragraph 3.2. above) of the OpenTrack may take place at different times than those of the MainTrack for security reasons.

4.2. The OpenTrack's public-facing infrastructure consists of an email broadcast service, a support email address, a channel and chat on Telegram for official one-way announcements and two-way communication, and a number of rooms on Zoom for proctoring (if applicable), as well as proprietary IEO software and other ancillary systems the IEO OpenTrack Team may judge necessary.

> **4.2.1.** In case Telegram is not available for use in a participant's country of residence, channels and chats on alternative platforms may be created and run as a backup. There is precedent for WhatsApp and WeChat, but other platforms may also be taken into consideration according to demand.

4.3. Contestants are responsible for having access to email, using the email address provided at registration, and to at least one of the chat systems used.

5. On Examination Procedures

5.1. Basic proctoring procedures for exam security may be present on the OpenTrack.

> **5.1.1.** The Economics round may be held with proctoring in parallel Zoom rooms, with their exact number scaled as a function of the number of Contestants, so as to allow for a proctor-to-Contestant ratio adequate for exam security.

5.1.2. The Financial Literacy round may be held with proctoring in parallel Zoom rooms, with their exact number scaled as a function of the number of Contestants, so as to allow for a proctor-to-Contestant ratio adequate for exam security.

5.1.3. The Business Case resolution will be organized freely by each group. The IEO OpenTrack Team will facilitate initial contact between the members of each group by means of the contact details provided at registration, but will not further interfere with each group's self-organization.

6. On Grading and Moderation

6.1. The multiple-choice questions (MCQ) on the Economics and Financial Literacy rounds are graded automatically.

6.2. The open questions (OQ) on the Economics Test are graded by a Jury drawn up from IEO Alumni selected by the IEO OpenTrack Team, facilitated by artificial intelligence tools. A minimal score on the multiple-choice questions (see Paragraph 6.1. above) may be required in order for a given Contestant to have their open questions graded.

6.3. The Business Case resolution is evaluated by means of peer grading with the official rubrics provided by the IEO Problem Committee and by means of a Jury selected by the IEO OpenTrack Team, at two different stages of evaluation.

6.3.1. Peer grading is designed and conducted so as to ensure the integrity of the process and avoid conflicts of interest.

6.4. Any changes in the Economics or Financial Literacy rounds' official answer key, brought about by Moderation on the MainTrack, will be retroactively applied to the OpenTrack as well. Otherwise, OpenTrack Contestants will **not** be able to appeal their grades.

7. On Awards and Certification

7.1. OpenTrack Contestants will earn digital Certificates containing their individual and team results in each round of the competition, in which the OpenTrack's status as a massive open online version of the IEO, to which they have not undergone national selection, is highlighted.

7.1.1. Some special categories of digital Certificates may also be awarded at the prerogative of the IEO OpenTrack Team.

7.2. OpenTrack Contestants are **not** eligible for medals or trophies.

8. Closing Remarks

8.1. With the creation and consistent continuation of the OpenTrack as a project directly under the IEO's aegis, we, the IEO OpenTrack Team, 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 professional and personal bonds that bring IEO structures and the IEOx Community together. We also commit to being a beacon of excellent governance and creative innovation in the IEO ecosystem.

8.2. These Specific Regulations refer only to the IEO 2024. They may be changed pending detailed review by the IEO EB. This current version of the document is dated **June 3rd, 2024**, and replaces any previous iterations.

8.2.1. History of Changes

i. June 3rd, 2024 — first official version of document.

8.3. The IEO 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 IEO Statute.

8.4. The IEO OpenTrack Team can be directly reached at opentrack@ecolymp.org and will officially answer any questions that may arise from reading these Specific Regulations.

IEO OpenTrack Team, June 3rd, 2024.