

Proposal for Changes in the IChO Regulations

From time to time, the content and text of the regulations of the IChO need to be updated. Because the last major revision was done in 1999, the Steering Committee has decided in 2008 to revise the regulations. The SC has discussed the possible changes at its meetings and has the following proposal for the International Jury to consider. Note that these proposals will be voted on separately.

The three proposals are as follows:

A) [General Revisions]

There are corrections in the text and the wording of the regulations that do not cause any changes in meaning. In addition there are several minor changes that are mostly clarifications to align the regulations with the actual practice of the Olympiads:

- Application procedure for a newcomers country [§2(3)]
- Chair of business sessions [§6(2)]
- Removing the detailed description of working groups [§7(3)]
- Clarification on Steering Committee members and procedures [§8(2)]
- Election procedure of the chair of the SC [§8(4)]
- Removing the section on the list of possible chemicals [§12(4)]
- Automatic update of the safety appendices [§12(4)]
- Basic mathematical knowledge clarified (Appendix C)

In the attached version of the regulations all these changes are highlighted, while the minor wording modifications are not indicated.

The SC recommends to the Jury that the revised regulations as noted above should be voted on as a whole at the 3rd Jury meeting in Tokyo without discussing any detail as these changes are thought to be noncontroversial. Jury members with questions or doubts about the changes are welcome to ask SC members before the meeting for detailed explanations.

B) [Steering Committee]

The Steering Committee is a body that helps to coordinate future Olympiads. Its members should have IChO experience and its composition should replicate some of the diversity of the participating countries. However, it is difficult to proportionally align representation on the Steering Committee with the continuously changing list of participating countries.

The proposed new text of §8(2) tries to ensure a diversity of regions together with added flexibility for the future. It will be discussed and voted on separately at the 3rd Jury meeting in Tokyo.

§8 (2) Members of the Committee are elected by the International Jury by a secret ballot to serve a two year term. In each election cycle, there must be at least one person from each of the following regions: the Americas, Asia and Europe. The other three members can come from any region. The term of the elected committee begins on the 1st day after the IChO. Members are elected for no more than two consecutive terms.

All the changes in §8(2), if approved by the Jury, would be valid from September, and they would be applied first for the 43rd IChO in Turkey.

If this proposal is accepted, the SC elections would be held each year as follows:

- 1) Nominations would be collected (e.g. via a nomination box) to fill the vacancies left by outgoing SC members.
- 2) Nominees will be asked prior to the jury session if they accept the candidacy. If any of the three regions (the Americas, Asia, and Europe) would be left without at least one SC member, there must be a candidate from that region.
- 3) The names of the nominees who have accepted (the candidates) will be made public prior to the actual election.
- 4) Each country will have a number of votes equal to the number of outgoing SC members. Each country can give one vote for each nominee of its choice on a voting slip (secret ballot).
- 5) The candidate from a region without a sitting SC member that receives the highest number of votes will become a member of the SC.
- 6) The other candidates that received the highest number of votes become members of the SC so that the Committee has six elected members.

C) [Immediate Past Chair of the Steering Committee]

The continuity of the Steering Committee is becoming more crucial for successful future of the IChO as the number of participants increases fast. The ex-officio and co-opted members have played important role for guaranteeing the continuous operation of the Steering Committee. The proposed new text of §8(3) is to ensure the continuity of the Steering Committee by having the immediate past chair as the ex-officio members for one year only when the Steering Committee decides to elect a new Chair.

§ 8 (3) There are the following ex-officio members of the Steering Committee:

- a) a representative of the current IChO,*
- b) a representative of the immediately preceding IChO,*
- c) representatives of the subsequent two IChOs,*
- d) the immediate past chair of the SC (for one year only)*