



Statutes of the International Junior Science Olympiad

Ratified at the 8th IJSO in Baku, Azerbaijan 2009

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INTRODUCTION

§ 1

(Definition)

The International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) is an annual individual and team competition in the Natural Sciences for students who are fifteen years or younger on 31st December of the competition year. It has been established in recognition of the significance of the Natural Sciences in the general education of young people and in all aspects of their lives. It is a purely educational event.

§ 2

(Preamble)

No country may have its delegation excluded from participation on political grounds, lack of diplomatic relations, lack of recognition by the government of the organising country, imposed embargoes or similar reasons. When difficulties preclude the formal invitation of the delegation representing a country, students from such a country should be invited to participate as individual delegations. Religious or political propaganda against any person or country or disruption of any aspect of the IJSO is strictly forbidden. Participation in the IJSO either by a host country, a delegation or an observer signifies acceptance of the statutes and all other aspects of the IJSO.

§ 3

(Aims & Objectives)

The aims of the IJSO are

- to promote and reward the pursuit of excellence in scientific endeavor.
- to challenge and stimulate gifted science students to develop their talents.
- to select the top young science student teams at the annual IJSO.
- to encourage the continued participation in the study of the Natural Sciences.
- to create friendship and relationships among students around the world from an early age.

The objectives of the IJSO are

- to stimulate the active interest of students in the Natural Sciences.
- to promote their careers as scientists.
- to enhance and develop international contacts in the Natural Sciences.
- to promote future scientific collaboration.

- to encourage the formation of friendships within the scientific community.
- to offer the opportunity to compare the syllabi and educational trends in science education within the participating countries.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE IJSO

§ 4

(Organisations)

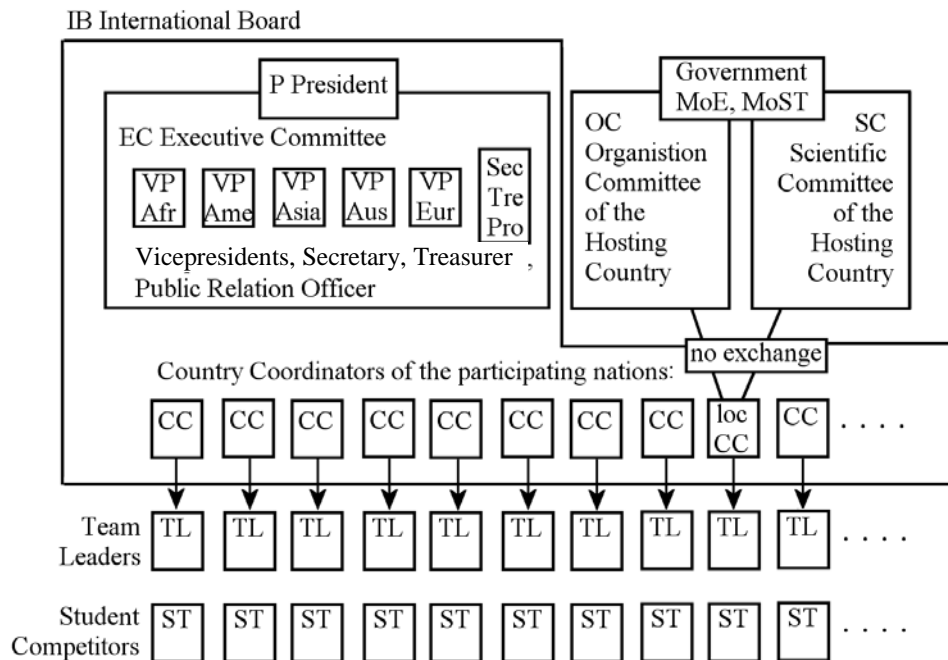
The IJSO is organised in late November or early December by the National Organising Committee (OC) of one of the participating countries on behalf of its National Government, its Ministries or its official Institution(s). The competition has to be conducted on the territory of this nation. The duration of the Olympiad (including the arrival and departure days) should not be less than 9 days.

English is the working language of the IJSO and competition problems and their solutions should be presented to the IJSO International Board (IB) and team leaders in English. The organisers may also prepare these documents in other languages.

Within five years of its entry in the competition a country should declare its intention to be the host of a future IJSO so that the order of countries willing to arrange the IJSO can be compiled. A country that refuses to commit to organise the competition may be barred from participation, even if delegations from that country have taken part in previous competitions.

In the event of the IJSO being cancelled all participating countries including those countries that had agreed to send an observer will be invited to send full delegations to the following IJSO.

The administration of the IJSO is fulfilled by the organisation of the IJSO as follows:



Structure of the IJSO Organisation.

§ 4.1

(The President)

The President shall be elected by the IB and shall serve a three-year term. He/She may be re-elected by the IB for only one additional term.

He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all IJSO committees and shall receive an official invitation from the host country of the IJSO. All costs incurred for inviting the president is the obligation of the Organising Committee (OC). He/She shall be invited to deliver a speech at the opening and closing ceremonies.

The President shall ensure that the IJSO constitution is upheld and shall chair the IB meeting where changes to the constitution are being discussed (§ 4.7).

His/Her duty is also to chair the IB meeting where medal allocations are determined.

The signature of the President should be on all certificates.

In the case that the IJSO is not taking place or in danger of not taking place in any year, the IJSO President has the authority to invite the IB of the previous year to remain in office and manage the affairs of the IJSO until a new host country is accepted.

The president has to be supported by the IJSO office at his/her local secretary bureau, which expenses must be covered by the participating countries (§ 7).

§ 4.2

(Vice Presidents)

Vice Presidents shall be ex-officio members of all IJSO committees and shall act with responsibility to the continent, which they are representing. They shall be elected by the IB of the relevant continent. They shall help the president with his/her tasks. They shall serve a three-year term and may be re-elected by the IB for only one additional term. The VPs shall promote and encourage countries in his/her region to participate in IJSO.

§ 4.3

(Duties of President and Vice Presidents)

The President/Vice Presidents can be citizens of the host country. They have the authority to and must ensure that

- the OC and the Local Country Coordinator (loc CC) are completely separate and independent to the satisfaction of the IB. No person may serve on both committees.
- the deliberation of the Scientific Committee (SC) is kept secret from the national delegation.
- no advantage whatsoever is given to the national delegation.

§ 4.4

(Executive Committee)

The long-term work of the IJSO is coordinated by the Executive Committee (EC). It consists of the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Officer. The IB elects the EC for a period of three years and may be re-elected for one additional term only. Vacancies occurring within the three year period will be filled by the IB through election to complete the term. The members serve in a voluntary capacity and will not receive a stipend. Member/s of EC that is not serving as one of the team leader or observer of his/her country will not be charged the registration fee and may apply for support from the hosting country for example: the transportation costs.

Members of the Executive Committee (EC) can also act as the Country Coordinators for their countries.

§ 4.5

(Organising Committee)

The Organising Committee (OC) of the IJSO must be completely independent and separate from the local Country Coordinator (loc CC) responsible for the selection and training, etc, of the Host Country Team.

The appropriate Governmental Department or Institution(s) of the host country on whose territory the competition takes place appoints the Organising Committee (OC) to run the IJSO on behalf of the host country.

The OC should produce a set of "Organisation Rules" based on the statutes. These must be sent to the delegation leaders of the participating countries in good time. These Organisation rules shall give details of the IJSO not covered in the statutes including the names and addresses of the institutions and persons responsible for the IJSO.

The OC shall provide a detailed program for the competition including the schedule, program of excursions, etc, which is sent to the delegation leaders of the IJSO.

The OC is obliged to publish the IJSO proceedings in English. Each participant should receive one copy of the proceedings free of charge not later than one year after the competition.

§ 4.6

(Scientific Committee)

The OC appoints a Scientific Committee (SC) to manage all the scientific aspects of the IJSO. The SC will provide three tasks, solutions and a marking scheme. The topics for the competition must correspond as far as possible with the science syllabi for thirteen to fifteen-year-old students in the participating countries (IB Syllabus).

The Scientific Committee (SC) has to prepare at least 6 (six) spare problems for task one (two problems for each subject), and one spare problem for task two. These spare problems which will be presented to the International Board if some of the originally presented thirty problems for task one or one of the two or three problems for task two is/are rejected by two thirds of the International Board members. The rejected problem(s) can not be reconsidered.

The SC is responsible for the grading the problem solutions and for Organising and carrying out the moderation process.

§ 4.7

(International Board)

The International Board (IB) is composed of the Executive Committee and the Country Coordinators of the participating countries and is the decision making body and final arbitrator of the IJSO. Decisions of the IB are taken on the basis of a simple majority (unless otherwise stated in the statutes) in the presence of at least 75% of members and are final. **Each country has one vote.** In the case of equal votes, the president has a casting vote and takes the final decision. The President is the head of the IB meeting. His duties include:

- to declare the meeting open and verify by roll call the names of voting members present.
- to allow equal opportunities to all members to express their points of view.
- to restrict / limit where necessary the contributions of certain members.
- to record the decisions of the IB.
- to complete the agenda of the meeting within the prescribed time.
- to declare the meeting over or deferred.

One of the team leaders will serve as a **Country Coordinator (CC)** until the next IJSO and as a member of the International Board (IB) of IJSO. IB Members for the new countries joining IJSO, must belong to or have a strong support from their Government, an official Institution, University, or well known organisations/associations.

The duties of the IB are

- to direct and supervise the IJSO in accordance with the statutes.
- to verify that all members meet all the requirements of the IJSO.
- to discuss and approve the tasks, their solutions and evaluation. The IB may change or reject parts of tasks one and two but may not propose new ones. Structural changes may not be made to the experimental task.
- to ensure that no assistance is given to students by way of translations or by any other means.
- to ensure the correct and just classification of the prize winners.
- to establish the winners of the competition and make a decision concerning the presentation of the prizes.
- to review the running of the IJSO.
- to ensure that violations of the statutes are dealt with appropriately
- to approve the countries that will organise future IJSOs.
- to expel countries or individuals from participation in the IJSO for violation of the statutes.
- to accept the decisions of the majority of the members present.

The IB approves

- the final results of the evaluation and decides on the number of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and other awards to be awarded in accordance with the statutes
- the changes to the IJSO Constitution which come into effect for the following year.
- the expulsion of team leaders or students from the IJSO in the case of a serious breach of the rules.

PARTICIPATION IN THE IJSO

§ 5

(National Delegations)

Participation in the International Junior Science Olympiad signifies acceptance of the present Statutes by the Relevant Ministry of the participating country.

Each participating country that has either participated fully in or sent an observer to the IJSO in one of the previous two years is invited to send a delegation of six students and three team leaders. One team leader acts as the Country Coordinator (CC).

The hosting country has the right to have two national delegations.

Countries who want to join the IJSO after it has reached the number of fifty member countries have to start by sending an observer at least once at the IJSO before they participate for the first time.

§ 5.1

(Obligations)

The obligations of the participating countries are to pay the participation fee at the time that the host country decides and to obey all rules of the IJSO statutes and rules made by the Host Country for the ongoing event. Each participating country may submit six multiple choice problem (two for each subject: Physics, Chemistry and Biology) for task one, one theoretical problem for each subject for task two, and one experimental problem for task three to the OC of IJSO. The complete solution of each problem must also be submitted.

§ 5.2

(Competitors)

A normal team consists of six students and three leaders. If a normal team could not be fulfilled, then the minimum team that consists of three students and at least one leader, will also be allowed to participate in the IJSO. Teams consisting of less than three members are not classified for team awards.

The age of the competitors is fifteen years or younger on 31st December of the competition year. As an example students born on or after January 1st, 1994 are therefore eligible for IJSO in 2009.

A student is eligible to represent his/her country if he/she holds a valid passport of that country or is in the education system of that country for at least one academic year.

Students must accept the statutes of the IJSO and the organisation rules provided by the OC.

The use of one's own collections of formulae from mathematics, chemistry, physics, etc, during the competition are not allowed.

§ 5.3

(Country Coordinator)

The Country Coordinator is the contact person in each participating IJSO country and must insure that

- all registration forms are completed and sent to the Organising Committee (OC) on time.
- guarantee that all delegation member details are in accordance with the rules of the IJSO.
- pay all fees to the OC on time.
- confirm at registration that all delegation member details provided are correct.
- carry out the directions of the IB.

§ 5.4

(Team Leaders)

The Team Leaders must

- preserve complete secrecy of the tasks and the results until publicly announced.
- provide a proper translation of the problems from English (or other languages) to the mother tongue of their participants. The Organisation Committee (OC) will not be responsible for providing the translator for the country delegation.
- grade their students' scripts and participate fully in the moderation process.

- accept the statutes of the IJSO and the Organisation Rules provided by the OC.
- not have contact with their students once the problem discussion has started, and until permission has been granted by the IB.

The IB will disqualify those contestants who do not meet these IJSO conditions. The Team Leaders must ensure that all delegation member details are in accordance with the rules of the IJSO and have been accepted by the OC prior to arrival at the IJSO.

The Team Leaders must cover the costs incurred by a disqualified contestant or contestants where the OC has not accepted the contestant or contestants.

§ 5.5 *(Observers)*

Observer/s are those people who come to observe the IJSO. They include a representative of a country wishing to join the IJSO and representatives of future host countries and an assistant to the Country Coordinator.

An Observer:

- is regarded in the same way as a team leader.
- is invited to observe all IB meetings and IJSO activities.
- does not have voting rights at the IB and team leaders meeting
- must pay an observer fee determined by the host country

§ 5.6 *(Visitors)*

A Visitor from a participating country, e.g. the parent of the students, may attend the IJSO. A Visitor

- is invited to join for all excursion programs for leaders only.
- is invited to attend the opening and closing ceremonies.
- Is not allowed to attend any meetings pertaining to IJSO.
- must pay his/her accommodations (hotel, foods, travelling, etc) fully during his/her stay.
- must pay the visitor fee determined by the host country.

§ 5.7 *(Guest Delegations)*

Under the approval of the EC of IJSO the host country may invite Guest Delegations, but only one Guest Delegation from each participating country, including a Guest Delegation from the host country. Guest Delegation leaders are not voting members of the IB but their duties are

the same as other delegation leaders in all other respects. The Guest Delegation pays all the expenses related to its participation determined by the host country.

Countries present with Guest Delegations only are not obliged to Organise the IJSO in the future.

Competitors from the Guest Delegations are classified in the same way as the regular delegations. They may receive medals, awards, diplomas and prizes but their names should be associated with the letter "G" (Guest) in all official documents. Also, the Guest Delegation will not be awarded as the country winner, Best experiment, Best Theoretical winner or overall Winner. The medals, awards, diplomas and prizes awarded to the guest teams are in addition to the 60% allocated awards.

HOSTING THE IJSO

§ 6.1

(Duties of the Host Country)

The host country must ensure or prove that

- the IJSO is conducted in accordance with the statutes.
- a Logo of the IJSO is used in all banners, documents, etc.
- the budget to host the IJSO is sufficient, at least 6 months prior to the date of the event must be approved by the EC of IJSO.
- each relevant Ministry and Country Coordinator receives an official letter of invitation for a delegation (six students) and three team leaders (physics, chemistry, and biology) to the IJSO. The letter designated for the relevant Ministry must clearly mention the person who will acts as the Country Coordinator for his/her country.
- all Ambassadors or Government Representative of the participants' countries may be invited to attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- a high ranking Government Official (at least Minister or Deputy Minister) is invited to declare the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of IJSO.
- an official staff of OC will be at the airport to welcome all participants on the arrival day and to transport them to their hotels provided and return transport to the airport on the departure date.
- suitable accommodation and subsistence is provided for each delegation. If possible, all students should stay at the same hotel and leaders at a different hotel.
- a daily News Letter or leaflet of the event is published.

- proceedings will be published and delivered to the participant countries at the latest on the next IJSO.
- the event of IJSO is made known publically as widely as possible through news at TV/Radio Broadcasts, Newspapers, etc.
- sufficient banners posted at least around the competition sites, such as: hotels for leaders and students, examination sites, excursion sites and also on the excursion buses.
- sufficient Liaison Officer (LO) or Guides for each country (students and leaders)
- equality of all the delegations is recognized.
- the preparation of at least six spare MCQ problems and one spare theoretical problem. These spare problems will be presented to the IB if any of the originally presented test problems are rejected by two thirds of the IB present. The rejected problem(s) cannot be reconsidered.
- problems are translated by each country for their own students.
- no contacts between leaders/observers/visitors and their team members at the beginning of, during and after problems discussion until the students have finished the test for the discussed problems.
- no advantage is given to the national delegation of the host country.
- the health and safety of the delegations is provided for.
- laboratories, examination halls, materials and other requirements necessary for the carrying out of the IJSO in accordance with the rules are provided.
- a cultural and social programme is in place.
- contact its embassies/trade office abroad and help the participating countries to get their visas.
- freedom for all EC members and observers to access all examination sites.
- time tables for the on going IJSO must be made very clear (location/site, time, etc). Any changes on the schedule must be discussed with EC members.
- all problem discussions, IB Meetings, EC meetings, moderation and other meetings regarding the IJSO must take place at a suitable location.
- all communication facilities such as internet in the Leader's hotel must be kept normal (ON) for the duration of the IJSO event.
- the website of the IJSO must be kept up-to-date following the arrival of delegations until the departure dates so that the outside world will immediately know what is going on.

§ 6.2

(Duties of the following Host Countries)

The next Host Country must provide a formal invitation to all participating countries. The formal invitation must be addressed by the chairman of the Organising Committee or from the Government Official of the next hosting country. It may bring observers to watch the on going IJSO.

Must invite the EC Members of IJSO to observe the preparation of OC at least 6 months before the date of the IJSO event. All costs for inviting the EC members must be borne by the OC of the next host country.

The subsequent hosting country must send a preliminary invitation to all participating countries and may make any other presentations, etc, to all of the participating countries.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

§ 7

(Financial Matters)

The financial management of the IJSO is as follows:

The host country covers all costs from the arrival at the location of the IJSO until departure of the delegations. This includes the costs of

- board and lodging of the delegations
- excursions
- medals, awards, certificates, other prizes, etc

The Country Coordinators of the participating countries must ensure that the government/sponsor covers the cost for the delegation of

- return travel to the location of the competition
- health & travel insurance for the period of the competition.
- the participation fees for each delegation is US\$ 1.000.00 and will be reviewed yearly.

Twenty-five (25%) of the participation fee should be returned to the Treasurer of IJSO within six months for operational costs of IJSO Organisation (§ 4.1). The Financial status of IJSO will be reported by the Treasurer in a written text every year at the International Board Meeting and is subject to be audited by the Internal IJSO's Auditors.

All cost incurred for creating problems (theory and experiment) for the IJSO event is the responsibility of the host country.

THE COMPETITION

§ 8

(Schedule)

The competition is divided into three tasks, prepared by the SC and conducted over three days with an interval of at least one day between each task. The time allotted to each task should normally be three to four hours. The OC decides the sequence of the competition days.

§ 8.1

(Problems)

The problems consist of three tests.

Test One and Two are individual competitions. However Test Three is a team competition, where one team consists of three students of each delegation (each country may have two teams for task three).

Test One is a multi-choice-questionnaire (MCQ). The number of questions should be 30 (thirty). Questions for Test One should include Physics (10 problems), Biology (10 Problems) and Chemistry (10 problems). Each question shall have four possible answers with only one is correct.

Test Two is a theoretical test. The number of tests should be 2 (two) or 3 (three). Test Two should be more complex involving a combination of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Test Three is an experimental task. The number of tasks should not exceed 2 (two). Questions for Test Three should be the combination of Physics, Chemistry and Biology and should be in equal proportion.

The problems must

- be related to the syllabus of IJSO, and cover all content of the syllabus as much as possible.
- be reviewed by the IJSO Scientific Experts (not the local SC, but an *ad-hoc* Scientific Committee formed by the EC) prior to the problem discussion.
- be created innovatively and the answers must be language independent.

§ 8.2

(Problem Discussion)

The problem discussion

- can only be attended by leaders, EC members, observers and appointed OC members.
- must be lead by a member of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the host country
- should provide a presentation of the problems by the SC to be discussed by all leaders.
- may be mediated by the president if there is a dispute among the leaders
- can reject problems which are determined by a 75% majority vote of the Country Coordinators (CC). One country has one vote only.
- The rejected problem/s must not be reconsidered to be one of the problem/s.

§ 8.3

(Problem Translations)

The Team Leaders must not give any clues, changes, simplifications or modifications for the problems that have been approved by the IB members when the problems are translated to their own languages (translation means to change the sentences/words to one language according to the related Dictionary).

Any country that violates this condition, will be disqualified from the event, and must return home immediately without receiving any expenses related to their participation budget, from the host country or by IJSO. The official English version will be provided to each student on request.

§ 8.4 *(Marking)*

The marking of the Tests are conducted by the Scientific Committee and may be revised following discussions with the Team Leaders during moderation (§ 8.5).

The maximum points allocated to the tasks are:

- Test One: 30 points
- Test Two: 30 points
- Test Three: 40 points

Test One and Test Two are marked individually. In Test One the correct answer will be marked 1 (one), the wrong answer will get penalty 0.25 (zero point twenty five), and zero marks for not answering.

Each member of the team for Test Three will be awarded the same points. For correct marking the team leader/s is/are obliged to state clearly the names of his/her students as Team A or Team B. However, the names on each team may be changed (reshuffled) only on the arrival date. No more changes can be made afterwards.

§ 8.5 *(Moderation)*

Moderation is the discussion of the students' marks between Team Leaders and SC members (§ 8.4).

On the night prior to moderation the SC must provide to the team leader the marks for each students including the marking scheme.

Each country will be called according to their schedules, and will only be present for discussion for the allocated time determined by SC (all countries will get the same time allocation).

At the end of the moderation, the head of the team leaders of each country must sign the final agreed mark for their students.

No more changes can be made for the students' marks after moderation, unless there is a proven mistake by the SC on their final marks.

Furthermore, the moderation

- can be lead by the chairman of SC members.
- can only be attended by leaders, EC members (if necessary), and appointed OC members.

§ 8.6

(Calculating the Awards)

Medals are allocated on the basis of individual total points. The points allocated to the individual test one and two are added to the points allocated to team test three.

In deciding on **the Best Theoretical Winner**, only results of the Test One and Test Two are added.

In deciding **the Best Team** only the results of test three are considered.

In deciding **the Country Winner** all six individual scores are added. If there is a tie, Gold medals are allocated three points, silver two and bronze one. If there is still a tie, only gold and silver are considered and finally only gold. The following examples may explain the decision procedure in the case of a tie (grey = Country Winner):

Case 1: 3 delegations with 6 students each with a total of 600 P. (tie)				
Country	Medals	Total Value	G/S-Value	Gold-Value
Delegation A	3G,3B	12	9 no matter	9 no matter
Delegation B	2G,3S,1B	13	12 no matter	4 no matter
Delegation C	6S	12	12 no matter	0 no matter

Case 2: 3 delegations with 6 students each with a total of 600 P. (tie)				
Country	Medals	Total Value	G/S-Value	Gold-Value
Delegation A	1G,4S,1B	12 (tie)	11	1 no matter
Delegation B	3G,3B	12 (tie)	9	9 no matter
Delegation C	6S	12 (tie)	12	0 no matter

Case 3: 3 delegations with 5 or 6 students each with a total of 600 P. (tie)				
Country	Medals	Total Value	G/S-Value	Gold-Value
Delegation A	4G,xx,1B	13 (tie)	12 (tie)	12
Delegation B	2G,3S,1B	13 (tie)	12 (tie)	6
Delegation C	6S	12 no matter	12 no matter	0 no matter

The **Overall Winner** is the student who has the highest total points (the total of Test One, Two and Three).

The President and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee will ensure that each student has been allocated the correct marks and therefore the correct medal. During the discussion of medal allocations real results should not be shown.

Students results will be released only at the closing ceremony of IJSO.

§ 8.7
(Awards)

Certificates

All students who do not obtain a medals will receive a certificate of participation. The student who obtains a medal will receive a certificate that clearly mentions the medal received.

Medals

Medals will be awarded as follows:

For individual competition:

Gold medals : top 10% (approx.) of all students
Silver medals : next 20% (approx.) of all students
Bronze medals : next 30% (approx.) of all students
(must not exceed 60 %)

For team (experimental) competition (1 medal to each team member):

Gold medals : 1st Highest point of the team
Silver medals : 2nd Highest point of the team
Bronze medals : 3rd Highest point of the team

Special prizes and certificates will be awarded to

- the student who obtains the highest overall score (total points obtained from all Tests) is called as "the over all winner".
- the student who obtains the highest score for theoretical test (total points of Test One and Two) is called "the best theory winner".

A perpetual challenge trophy and flag will be awarded by the President of IJSO to the country who achieved the highest accumulated score of all six students and is called "the country winner". The IJSO flag will not be permanently belong to the winner, however to be returned to the President of IJSO at the opening ceremony of the next IJSO and will be awarded to the next country winner. Additional Special prizes can be awarded at the discretion of the host country.

HONORARY MEMBERS

§ 9
(Honorary Members)

The IB may award a person the title "Honorary Member of the International Junior Science Olympiad" for special service to the IJSO. They may be invited to the IJSO. The payment of all expenses of the honorary member is at the discretion of the host country. The Past Presidents of IJSO are automatically honorary members of IJSO.

§ 10
(Finally)

The original of these Statutes is written in English.

These statutes are immediately effective after they are ratified at the 6th IJSO International Board Meeting in Baku/Azerbaijan on **December, 8th, 2009**. Therefore, the previous IJSO Statutes are no longer valid.

Changes to the Statutes can only be made at an IB meeting, chaired by the President and called specifically for that purpose. IB members must receive the proposed changes in paper or digital form at least one month before the meeting.

The President	Masno Ginting	
Secretary	Sophia G. Awortwi	
VP for Africa	Robin Powles	
VP for America	Carola Graziosi	
VP for Asia	Sang Chun Lee	
VP for Australia	Antoine Durandet	
VP for Europe	Paraic James	
PRO	Eckhard Lucius	
Treasurer	Michael A. Cotter	