



Jury Committee

International Young Physicists' Tournament



Rules of procedure

Version June 2025

Preamble

The jury is nominated and organized by the LOC in cooperation with the EC. The EC delegates its responsibilities for the following tasks to the jury committee:

1. Check qualification of registered jurors (Team leader jurors, Experienced jurors and Co-opted jurors) and select Experienced and Co-opted jurors for the relevant IYPT competition
2. Decide about travel support for jurors, if available
3. Create and adjust individual juries during the IYPT
4. Collect individual and statistical feedback on jurors and use it to enhance juries in the future
5. Develop and enforce scoring sheet and guidelines for jurors
6. Oversee and uphold scientific integrity during the tournament.

I. Jury qualification criteria

Basic qualification criteria applicable to all jurors

Jurors must either have

- a degree in physics; or a related STEM field and provide appropriate credentials

or

- a degree in physics or science education and three years of teaching experience in physics at a secondary school level.

All jurors must attend the jury meeting and be available for all selective rounds. The jury committee may decide on exceptions to this rule.

Team leader jury members and Co-opted jurors

Team leader jurors need only to fulfil the basic qualification criteria. The criterion is considered fulfilled if it is fulfilled at the starting day of IYPT.

Experienced jury members

Experienced jurors need to fulfil basic qualification criteria and have experience in acting as a juror in the IYPT jury in at least one of the previous five IYPT competitions. Jury members can gain their qualification as experienced jurors by acting as Team leader jurors or Co-opted jurors at the IYPT.

II. Experienced jurors

Experienced jury members will be selected using a specific call for applications. The deadline for this call will be at least one month before the deadline for registering teams, so that all applicants are informed about the decision on their application at least one week before the deadline for registering teams. The jury committee will select jurors according to their qualification, level of experience, country balance and feedback collected on the jurors in the past.

If travel support is available, applicants in financial need may request support. The jury committee will decide on each request based on qualification, level of experience and feedback considering the budget available.

III. Team leader jurors

Team leader jurors must register online (including submitting a CV proving their qualification) by the deadline for registration of teams. The jury committee will review their qualification and if it is not fulfilled, the registered juror will get a single chance to verify the qualification. If the qualification is expected to be obtained before the start of IYPT, the juror will be conditionally accepted, but must prove his/her qualification before the start of the jury meeting.

If the qualification was not accepted, the respective IMO gets a single possibility to change the team leader juror. A non-qualified team leader juror will not be accepted for the IYPT in the position of a team leader juror, but a position of a visitor (subject to paying the visitor fee) or team leader – non juror can be used instead. At least one of the two team leaders has to be a juror.

IV. Co-opted jurors

Jurors co-opted to the jury by the jury committee must register no less than two weeks before the start of the tournament, including local jurors nominated by the LOC. The same qualification checking procedure as for Team leader jurors applies.

V. Jury creation

Juries for selective Physics fights are created with the help of a computer software. All jurors without experience in judging the IYPT in the past will complete a training consisting of a training round. In this round, they will be judging as any other juror except that their grades will not be showed publicly and will not be counted towards the results. After this training round the jury committee decides on their further deployment.

The jury committee will make its best efforts to publish the jury plan for round 1 at least 30 minutes before it starts and for rounds 2-5 at least two hours before the start of the respective round. The jury committee has the right to make changes in the already announced juries in following cases:

- A juror is not able to take part in a specific jury due to objective reason that is communicated to the committee sufficiently in advance
- A juror did not show up for a jury – in this case changes can be made also in juries that the respective juror is scheduled for in future fights
- A justified complaint was placed against a juror – in this case a juror can be removed from one or more juries for the respective tournament
- Other changes arising from changes made according to the prior points to keep the overall balance in the juries.

The jury for the final is selected by the jury committee based on qualification, experience, balance of countries, feedback as well as the LOC's input.

VI. Jury assessment

Team feedback

The jury committee will request, collect and process feedback on all juries from the participating teams in a written and non-anonymous form. This feedback is communicated to the individual jurors in anonymized form.

Complaints

The jury committee accepts complaints about individual jurors. These complaints shall be delivered to one of the jury committee members by one of the team leaders of the affected team, chairperson or other member of

the jury. Complaints must be handed in written or by e-mail not later than 8 hours after the end of the respective physics fight.

The matter of the complaint is communicated to the juror in question, as well as to the chairperson of the jury and other jury members at the discretion of the jury committee. The jury committee passes judgement on the complaint within 24 hours. All involved persons are informed about the judgement on the complaint.

Additional procedures

Additionally, the jury committee may seek further information on the performance of jurors, e.g. by consulting fellow jurors, chairpersons, recordings or direct observation of fights. Based on the obtained information the jury committee may decide on possible measures to improve the quality of the juries including banning a juror for a specific period.

VII. Scientific misconduct

The Jury committee handles submissions related to suspected cases of scientific misconduct, which may be raised and clearly communicated as such by jurors or team leader.

Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to: unreported use of AI tools, presenting falsified theoretical concepts, fabricated or screwed experimental data or theoretical results, as well as plagiarism or copying from external sources without proper attribution.

The Jury committee will investigate the case based on the submission, the presentations handed in by the team, and, if applicable, statements from the concerned team members(s) and/or team leader(s). If the suspicion is justified, the jury committee shall escalate the case to the Disciplinary Committee. The Jury Committee may include a recommendation for an appropriate sanction. Such a sanction may include, but is not limited to a reduction of points.

VIII. Collection of presentations

The jury committee collects all presentation materials shown by the reporting teams during the Physics Fights. Each team must submit their presentation in .pdf format no later than the end of the respective Physics Fight.

The submitted presentation must exactly match the material shown during the report. Supplementary material may be included as well.

Failure to submit the presentation on time or submitting a file that does not match the presented material shall lead to points reduction or other appropriate actions.

IX. Confidentiality

The discussion among the JC must remain confidential. The outputs of the discussions can be communicated only by the Chair of the JC or a person authorized by the Chair of the JC.