

# Accreditation Rules for Participation in the IOAI

These Rules were established by the Board and the Board reserves the right to adjust them if deemed necessary.

## 1.1. Definition of Countries

A country is a politically organized territory with a sovereign government, usually recognized by most of the other sovereign countries and/or some international organizations such as the United Nations, etc.

Under some circumstances, more entities (“territories”) from the same country may apply to the Board to be permitted to participate separately to the IOAI.

Here are examples of the conditions under which such a request may be considered, but the final decision is made by the Board:

- The different territories are recognised as separate “countries” by other acknowledged bodies, including those for other competitions (e.g., educational or sporting).
- The different territories have separate and independent governments or education systems.

A territory seeking to be accepted as a separate entity should also seek independent accreditation.

## 1.2. Accreditation

### 1.2.1. General rules

Countries or territories interested in participating for the first time must secure accreditation from the Board. The Board provides specific details upon request, but key guidelines include the following:

- The competitions used to select teams must be nationally or territorially inclusive, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate.
- No institution or individual should charge payments or fees with the intent to profit during any stage of the selection process. Collection of nominal fees is permissible only if they are strictly to offset expenses related to accommodation, travel, and the actual costs of the competitions without any profit being made

### 1.2.2. Accreditation process

Organizations or entities seeking accreditation must reach out to the Board exclusively through the contact form available on the IOAI website. This form must clearly identify the organization or body (National Organizer) accountable for the accreditation process and provide the details

of at least two contact persons, including their email addresses and phone numbers equipped with WhatsApp (or another communication channel).

The Board approve the request within one month or will send back a questionnaire. National Organizers are required to submit the completed questionnaire within a one-month timeframe. Throughout this period, a representative from the Board will be designated to address any inquiries the National Organizers might have.

National Organizers can expect to receive a response from the Board within one month. The response will fall into one of three categories:

- Accreditation approved,
- Accreditation granted with the requirement of minor modifications,
- Accreditation approved for a limited time,
- Accreditation denied.

The Board reserves the right to review the accreditation status of a country at any given time. The Board reserves the right to revoke accreditation if any of the following occur :

- Inconsistencies are identified in the selection process.
- There is a departure from the information initially submitted for accreditation.
- Another body expresses interest to receive the accreditation for the same country.
- The country has failed to participate in the IOAI for two consecutive occasions.
- The accredited organization behaves in a way that discredits or brings harm to the IOAI (in words or actions)

Decisions made by the Board are final and non-disputable.

A country or territory that has had its accreditation revoked has the opportunity to reapply and initiate the accreditation procedure anew.

When the Board receives multiple accreditation requests from the same country or territory, or if a new request comes in from an area that is already accredited, the Board reserves the right to decide which applicant should receive the accreditation.

### **1.2.3. Participation of non-accredited countries**

In alignment with our objective to facilitate educational opportunities in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for high school students globally, the Board may permit participation from non-accredited countries in the IOAI under certain circumstances. These conditions include but may not be limited to:

- A comprehensive rationale for the inability of the country or territory to seek accreditation.
- A well-defined plan or strategy outlining the steps the country or territory will undertake to achieve accreditation within the next two years.
- Engagement in an online dialogue with Board members to discuss the aforementioned aspects and address any additional queries that may emerge.

It is important to note that the allowance for non-accredited countries to participate is restricted to a maximum of two consecutive years for each applying institution.

Guest teams from countries which have not yet completed the accreditation process may be permitted to attend the Olympiad as guests at the discretion of the Board in consultation with the Local Organisers. Guest teams will be liable for all their expenses, including costs of accommodation, and participation in the social programme.

#### **1.2.4. Board's visits**

In certain situations, the Board may decide that a visit by at least two of its members to the applicant organization is necessary. This step is considered in order to address conflicts, offer guidance, and assist the country or territory in achieving accreditation. Such instances include, but are not limited to:

- Persisting discrepancies with the provided guidelines.
- Inadequate clarity or absence of required information.
- Numerous indications that the selection process is not operating as outlined in the application questionnaire.
- Multiple signs that students are being charged substantial fees to participate in the selection process or to attend the IOAI.

#### **1.2.5. Accreditation fees**

The initial accreditation process is provided at no cost.

However, the LERAI Foundation reserves the right to impose fees in the following scenarios:

- When a new application is submitted after the Board has previously revoked the accreditation of a country or territory.
- If a visit from Board members is deemed necessary, as detailed in the relevant section.