

IEO^x WINTERCHALLENGE 2026

ANNUAL REGULATIONS





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INTRODUCTION

1.1. The International Economics Olympiad Community WinterChallenge (IEOX WiC) is an open competition developed by members of the IEOX Community and Alumni and supported by the IEO Executive Board (EB).

1.1.1. The IEOX WiC follows the principles of IEO [Articles of Association](#) and [Regulations of Competition](#) and respects all decisions made by a special committee formed by IEO EB members. It is being developed and held by a group of educators, specialists and IEO Alumni drawn from members of the IEOX Community, hereby referred to as the IEOX WinterChallenge Workgroup.

1.2. The goal of the WinterChallenge is to offer an additional competition for those who wish to get acquainted with the IEO and/or wish to practice for the main activities of the Olympiad, which takes place in Summer/Autumn.

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ON PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

2.1. Participation in the WinterChallenge is restricted by age. Contestants must be no older than 21 years old by June 30th of the year of participation.

2.1.1. Registration takes place through an online form, which collects personal information such as: full name, date of birth, country of origin, e-mail address for contact, (parental) consent for participation, team roster.

2.2. Registration can be made either as an individual or as a pre-formed team. Teams consist of up to 5 contestants and up to 1 instructor. Instructors, if any, could prepare contestants to compete, support them throughout their application procedure, but should abstain from providing any support during the WiC rounds.

2.2.1. If a pre-formed team registers as fully formed, its roster will be maintained.

2.2.2. If a pre-formed team registers as partially formed, it may be filled up with additional members chosen by the IEOX WinterChallenge Workgroup.

2.2.3. If a contestant registers as an individual, they will be entered into a pool out of which post-formed teams will be formed by the IEOX WinterChallenge Workgroup.

ON EVENT

2.3. Registration for the WinterChallenge closes on February 1st 2026 at 23:59 UTC.

2.3.1. If the number of contestants exceeds a predetermined quota, the IEOX WinterChallenge Workgroup reserves the prerogative of closing registration before the aforementioned time.

3.1. An Opening Ceremony will be held to mark the beginning of the WiC and give initial instructions, and a Closing Ceremony will be held to mark its end and announce results.

3.2. The WinterChallenge consists of one official competitive round, the Business Case.

3.2.1. The Business Case (BC) consists of two phases: the groups phase and the final phase.

3.2.2. During the Business Case resolution, taking into account the group work that it entails, each group may be offered a private directory for file handling on Google Drive. Contestants are free to use additional means and resources of their own where available.

3.2.3. Throughout work on the Business Case, contestants should cite sources properly, respect intellectual property and licensing rights for external material, and refrain from plagiarism, under the penalty of disqualification for malicious violations. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools is allowed only as a support for non-substantive tasks (such as grammar checking or formatting). Any use of such tools must be clearly disclosed in the submission, and contestants remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of all content submitted.

3.2.4. Teams will be distributed into groups. The number of groups and each team's peer grading obligations will be defined and announced after registration is concluded and all teams are formed.

3.2.5. The final presentation (a recorded video of up to 10 minutes and a *.pdf file with slides) will be uploaded and made available to all contestants and the IEOX Community, and peer-graded. Each team will get access to its scores and evaluation only after successfully peer-grading the teams assigned to them, and only after peer grading is concluded.

3.2.6. A number of top-ranked teams from the groups phase will participate in the final (online) phase. The quantity will be defined and announced by the IEOX WiC Workgroup.

Presentations will be recorded. Contestants should present live, using only the final version of their *.pdf slides uploaded no later than 24 hours before the final phase. Team members who do not show up for this live presentation will be considered no-show and will have no individual Business Case score.





3.3. Other educational and social activities will take place throughout the WinterChallenge.round, the Business Case.

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ON INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1. The IEOX WiC will take place online on platforms and tools defined by the IEOX WinterChallenge Workgroup.

4.2. Detailed instructions on the purpose and use of each of these and how they fit together into a cohesive system that composes the WiC's infrastructure, will be made available to the contestants and the IEOX Community as a whole in a timely manner.

4.3. There will be on-duty personnel working in shifts throughout the event to provide synchronous technical support. Their schedule and roster will become available to the contestants, as well as instructions on how to obtain technical support asynchronously outside of shift hours.

4.4. We invite any interested organization (national Olympiads, teachers associations, schools, colleges or universities who are interested to organize a regional version of the IEOX WinterChallenge onsite, applying appropriate processes, to inform our workgroup and coordinate to license such initiatives.

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ON EVALUATION

5.1. The Business Case resolution will be evaluated by means of peer grading at the groups phase, using a grading rubric provided by the IEOX WinterChallenge Jury. The live presentations at the final phase will be reviewed by specific members of the IEOX WinterChallenge Jury.

5.1.1. Peer-grading will be construed so as to ensure integrity of the process and avoid conflicts of interest.

5.2. Detailed IEOX WiC 2026 grading parameters will be released in a separate document at least 14 days before the competition begins.

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ON EVALUATION

6.1. Contestants will earn an e-certificate of participation with their team score and rank. The top-3 performing teams in the Business Case will be declared winners of the IEOX WinterChallenge.

6.2. Winners will receive symbolic golden, silver and bronze e-medals based on their achievements in the IEOX WinterChallenge.

CLOSING REMARKS

7.1. With the creation and maintenance of the WinterChallenge, we reiterate our commitment to making Economics, Finance and Business education available to an ever wider audience and our efforts to strengthen the bonds that bring the IEO Community together.

7.2. These Specific Regulations refer only to the year of 2026. Later, they may be changed pending detailed review by a committee picked from among EB members. This current version of the document is dated December 13th 2025 and replaces any previous iterations.

7.3. The IEO EB has the last word on interpretation of these Specific Regulations, and any cases of conflicting readings will be solved in the general spirit of the IEO Articles of Association and Regulations of Competition.

