



International
Physics Olympiad
FRANCE 2025

IPhO 2025 – Second Circular

March 2025 updated 30 April 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As already announced, France will host the 55th International Physics Olympiad, IPhO France 2025, in Paris and its suburban area, Île-de-France, from Thursday, 17 July to Friday, 25 July 2025. The French Physical Society (SFP) has been appointed by the Ministry in charge of Education and Research to serve as the organising body.

The Organising Committee will be honoured to welcome participants. The first circular was sent out last month and opened the pre-registration phase, which was available online until 15 March. Pre-registration was not mandatory but allowed the organisers to prepare for the registration phase, which will coincide with the distribution of this second circular and will be open until 15 May. Extensions to the registration deadline may be granted exceptionally for compelling reasons, but should be requested before 15 May.

Registration

Over 80 regular teams have pre-registered and several applications for guest team status are under discussion. All pre-registrants will be informed of their registration status by email, to all email addresses provided on the pre-registration form.

All teams (whether pre-registered or not) accepted as regular teams, guest teams, groups of individuals and all observers preparing the participation of future teams will receive an individual password to register their entire delegation.

The registration process is lengthy as it requires detailed information on all participants. Registration will be confirmed by a personalised email. It will be possible to return to the registration form, using the same password, to make any changes or additions until the deadline of 15 May. Please prepare all the files to be uploaded for each member of the delegation before entering the data on the site. The following files are requested for each participant:

- Photographic portrait: clear face photo to appear on the name tag and in the IPhO2025 digital booklet – jpg or gif file not heavier than 1MB.
- Pronunciation of full name: audio mp3 file not heavier than 1MB.
- Photocopy of the photo page of the passport (or other identity document allowing entry in France, if applicable) – jpg or gif or pdf file not heavier than 1MB.
- Signed “Photography Consent Form” – pdf file not heavier than 1MB.
- Signed “Commitment Form” – pdf file not heavier than 1MB.

In addition, the size of the T-shirts for contestants, leaders and observers is requested.

Templates for the “Photography Consent Form” and the “Commitment Form” (for contestants and for leaders/observers/visitors respectively) can be downloaded from www.ipho2025.fr. They should be completed, printed, manually signed and scanned into a .pdf form for uploading during the registration process.

Participation fee

The participation fee is € 550 for each contestant and leader, € 2,000 for each observer and visitor. There will be a surcharge of €480 for single room occupancy in the hotel (leaders, observers and visitors), within the limit of available places.

Any request to change the number of guests after 15 May will result in additional cost charged by the hotel to the organisers. Teams requesting to increase or decrease the number of hotel guests after 15 May may be charged a total surcharge of € 100 (flat fee for the whole team) as a contribution to the extra costs incurred as a result of their request.

Payment

Bank transfer is the preferred method of payment. The bank details are as follows:

Beneficiary: SOC FRANC DE PHYSIQUE SFP OLYMPIADES INTERNATIONALES
Bank: CAISSE D EPARGNE ILE DE FRANCE
Branch: CENTRE D AFFAIRES ESS PARIS, 19 RUE DU LOUVRE, 75001 PARIS, France
Account number: 08021555244 55
SWIFT: CEPFRPP751
IBAN FR76 1751 5900 0008 0215 5524 455

For any difficulty transferring money, please contact the organisers before 15 May so that an alternative payment solution can be agreed.

Cancellations received by 30 June will be refunded. Cancellations received after 30 June will not be refunded.

Accommodation

Hotel rooms have been reserved for leaders, observers and visitors at the Hôtel Mercure and the Hôtel Ibis Porte d'Orléans. Double occupancy is standard, single occupancy is available at an additional cost. Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis following receipt of full registration.

Most rooms for contestants have a capacity of 2 to 5 people. Mixing two different teams in the same room will be avoided as much as possible. In accordance with French law, female students should be accommodated separately from male students, based on the gender information on their identity document. A limited number of single rooms are available (at no extra charge) and will be decided by the organising committee, but justified requests for single rooms can be made.

Hospitality

In addition to accommodation, the organisers will provide and pay for meals and accommodation (including breakfasts), host the tests and related work by leaders, and organise visits, sightseeing and entertainment throughout the duration of IPhO 2025. **However, teams traveling independently to and from the event venue will be responsible for their meals until arrival, and after departure.**

Ground transport

Ground transport will be provided for official events. This will include picking up and dropping off delegations at places such as Paris Charles-de-Gaulle and Paris Orly airports and train stations as appropriate. Pick-up will be provided for arrivals on Thursday, 17 July and drop-off for departures on

Friday, 25 July. Teams arriving or departing at other times will need to make their own arrangements.

The opening ceremony will start at **9:30** in the morning on 18th July. The presence of all teams (leaders and contestants) is required. Travellers must ensure that their travel arrangements meet this requirement.

The closing ceremony is scheduled to end at 5:30 in the afternoon on 24th July. The presence of all teams (leaders and contestants) is required. A cocktail dinner will be served at the end of the ceremony. Registration includes the accommodation **and breakfast** for the following night.

Programme

Readers are referred to the first circular for details of the programme and venue. The first circular is available on the website www.ipho2025.fr. In addition, any programme updates will be posted directly on that website as soon as they are finalised.

Travel insurance

Each delegation is advised to take out an appropriate travel insurance. Although the organisers have taken out a contingency insurance policy to cover accidents during IPhO France 2025, personal medical insurance is not covered.

Invitation

An invitation in the form of a .pdf with a scanned signature of the organisers to register a team for IPhO France 2025 will be sent to all pre-registered teams who have requested it. For any other requirements regarding **team** invitations, please contact the organisers.

Visas

Visas may be required depending on the traveller's country of origin. Early applications for visas is strongly recommended. Upon receipt of the team's full registration, the organisers will provide **personal** invitation letters upon request if required by the French consulate. The link to visa information from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs is <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/visa-wizard>.

Awards

The International Board will award medals in accordance with the statutes.

In addition, some special prizes will be given:

- The "absolute winner", i.e. the contestant with the highest aggregate mark (sum of all experimental and theoretical tests marks), see IPhO Statutes associated Regulation 6.
- The top performer of the other gender.
- The contestant with the highest mark in the experimental test.
- The contestant with the highest mark in the theoretical test.
- 4 teams composed of at least 2 female contestants and at least 2 male contestants and with the highest total aggregate marks for the two best female and two best male contestants.

- Special awards based on the IPhO 2025 tests have been announced by IPhO 2025 partners ITER and CNES.
- Additional awards or gifts may be announced.
- In addition, Thales, a platinum level partner of the IPhO 2025 organisation, has announced a special award open only to IPhO 2025 contestants, but based on a specific selection taken separately prior to the competition itself, rather than on the IPhO 2025 tests. See appendix 1.

Exam tool

IPhO France 2025 will use the OlyExam tool, first introduced at IPhO 2016, for discussing, voting, translating, marking and managing exams. The OlyExam system will be accessible via a Wi-Fi network.

Leaders and observers are advised to bring their own personal computers that they are familiar with and, if necessary, international power adapters. The organisers will use their best endeavours to provide assistance to teams experiencing problems with their computers.

Calculators

All contestants will use a *Texas Instrument TI 30X Plus MathPrint* calculator, which will be provided by the organisers. More information about using the calculator will be given to registered teams.

Distribution of experimental kits

The organisers will provide each team with a free copy of the experimental kit used in the test. Depending on availability, additional unused kits may be purchased at the actual cost of (€400 per kit), or used kits may be purchased at a discounted price depending on their condition after use.

IPhO France 2025 website

The official website is <https://www.ipho2025.fr> (available in English and French). It is kept up to date and includes this circular. A third circular with updated information will be available in the first days of July. It will be sent to all registered participants and made available on the website.

Contact

registration@ipho2025sfp.org

We look forward to your participation!

With best regards,

Pierre Chavel, co-chairperson, Organising Committee
Dominique Obert, co-chairperson, Organising Committee
Julia Roussel, Event Director

Appendix 1. The Thales Solidarity IPhO 2025 “STEM for all” award

Thales, a platinum level partner of the IPhO 2025 organisation, has announced a special award open only to IPhO 2025 contestants. It will be based on a specific selection, independent of the IPhO 2025 tests. Thales Solidarity, a Thales programme, has introduced the “STEM for all” award, consisting of a grant and a one-year mentorship for young people who are passionate about STEM¹ and are facing financial or other social difficulties in pursuing their studies. See <https://www.thalesgroup.com/en/global/corporate-responsibility/thales-solidarity-programme>

On the occasion of IPhO 2025, a specific section of the “STEM for all” award has been announced. Up to five “STEM for all” awards, each consisting of a 5 000 euros grant and a one-year mentorship by Thales mentors, will be offered to winners among the IPhO 2025 contestants. The selection will be independent of the IPhO 2025 theoretical and experimental tests and will not interfere with them.

Each IPhO 2025 team may, if it wishes, enrol one of its contestants for the “IPhO 2025 STEM for all” selection. The team leader entering registration data may request access to the specific section of the registration form devoted to that award. There, the leader is expected to designate one (and only one) of the team contestants as candidate to the “IPhO 2025 STEM for all” award. The leader must explain in no more than 300 words why this particular contestant is considered as “facing financial or other social difficulties in pursuing their studies”.

The designated contestant will then receive access to a personal form, where she/he will be invited to upload, before 15 July end of day (GMT+2) a video of no more than two minutes where she/he should be visible at all times and explaining in her/his own words *“how science and technology can make the world safer, greener, and more inclusive, and what the contestant would like to accomplish thanks to STEM?”*

Up to five winners will be selected by a special award committee appointed jointly by Thales and by the IPhO 2025 organisers. They will receive their award from a Thales representative during the IPhO 2025 award ceremony.

¹ STEM stands for “Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics”.

Appendix 2. From the IPhO statutes and associated regulations.

Information provided for convenience.

§2

- The competition is organized by the Ministry of Education, the Physical Society or another appropriate institution of one of the participating countries on whose territory the competition is to be conducted. The organizing country is obliged to ensure equal participation of all the delegations, and to invite teams from all those countries that participated during the last three years. Additionally, it has the right to invite other countries. The list of such new countries must be presented to Secretariat of the IPhOs (§ 8) at least six months prior to the competition. Within two months the Secretariat has the right to remove, after consultations with the Advisory Committee (# 8), from the suggested list the teams that in opinion of Secretariat or Advisory Committee do not meet the criteria of participation in the IPhOs. The new countries not accepted by the Secretariat or Advisory Committee may, however, participate as “guest teams” but such participation does not create any commitments with respect to inviting these countries to the next competition(s).
- No country may have its team excluded from participation on any political reasons resulting from political tensions, lack of diplomatic relations, lack of recognition of some country by the government of the organizing country, imposed embargoes and similar reasons. When difficulties preclude formal invitation of the team representing a country, students from such a country should be invited to participate as individuals.
- The competition is conducted in the friendly atmosphere designed to promote future collaborations and to encourage the formation of friendship in the scientific community. Therefore all possible political tensions between the participants should not be reflected in any activity during the competition. Any political activity directed against any individuals or countries is strictly prohibited.

Regulations to §2

- The Ministry of Education, or the institution organizing the competition, allots the task of preparation and execution of the Competition to an appropriate body that forms a local organizing committee (loc). The members of the Secretariat of the IPhO should be accepted to the loc in an advisory function. They should be informed about the activities of the loc and may give requested and non-requested advice to the loc to help organize the IPhO in the spirit and tradition of the competition.
- Official invitations to the participating countries should be sent at least six months before the Olympiad. They normally are sent to the national institution that sent the delegation to the previous Olympiad. Copies of the invitation are also sent to the previous years' delegation leaders. The invitation should specify the place and time of the Competition plus the address of the organizing secretariat.
- Countries wishing to attend the current IPhO must reply to the invitation before March 15, nominating a contact person. Each participating country must in addition supply the host country with the contestants' personal data (surname, given name, sex, address, date of birth and address of school) by May 15 or as soon as possible.
- The host country is only obliged to invite delegations from countries that participated in one of the last three competitions. It may refuse
 - a) applications for participation from any other country

- b) applications from participating countries not belonging to the delegation as defined in §3 (observers, guests).
- Each country should, within five years of entry, declare its intention to host for a future Olympiad, suggesting possible years. A country that is unable to organize the competition may be prevented from participating in IPhOs by decision of the International Board.
- The organizers of the Olympiad should invite the President of the IPhOs to attend the venue of the Olympiad at least one month before the competition. The President will examine the relevant facilities and the competition problems, and give advice, if needed. The visit should be funded by the organizers.

§3

- Each participating country shall send a delegation, normally consisting of five students (contestants) and two accompanying persons (delegation leaders) at most. The contestants shall be students of general or technical secondary schools i.e. schools which cannot be considered technical colleges. Students who have finished their school examinations in the year of the competition can be members of the team as long as they have not commenced their university studies. The age of the contestants should not exceed twenty years on June 30th of the year of the competition.
- The delegation leaders must be specialists in physics or physics teachers, capable of solving the problems of the competition competently. Each of them should be able to speak English.

Regulations to §3

- The accompanying persons are considered by the organizers of the next Olympiad and by the Secretariat of the IPhOs (§ 8) as contact persons until the next Olympiad (unless new accompanying persons or other contact persons are nominated by the participating country). Each participating country must ensure that the contestants are all secondary school pupils when they announce the names of the members of their delegations. Each country is encouraged to promote gender diversity within its team. In addition to the delegations, teams may be accompanied by observers and guests. Observers may attend all Olympiad meetings, including the meetings of the International Board. However they may not vote or take part in the discussions. Guests do not attend the meetings of the International Board.
- If possible, the host country should accept as observers any of the following persons:
 - a) the organizer(s), or nominee(s), from the host country in the subsequent three years
 - b) a representative of any country expressing an intention to participate in the following IPhO.