

General Assembly

Minutes of the Meetings 27 July 2025 – 03 August 2025
Sucre, Bolivia

GA Meeting 1

Welcome and apologies

Sun Teck Tan (IOI President) welcomed everyone who made it to Sucre. He acknowledged that some delegations experienced difficult journeys to IOI 2025 and that 11 countries are currently known to be not participating.

Introduction of GA Chair

Sun Teck introduced Professor Jorge Terán as the GA Chair for IOI 2025 saying Dr. Teran is a faculty member at Universidad Mayor de San Andrés and a founder of both ICPC Bolivia and Olimpiada Boliviana de Informática.

Jorge spoke briefly to say it was a pleasure to take on this role. He thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a nice stay in Sucre.

Presentation and confirmation of GA agenda

The agenda for IOI 2025 presented by J.P. Pretti (IOI Secretary) was approved without any abstentions or votes against.

Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of IOI 2024 presented by J.P. were also approved without any abstentions or votes against.

J.P. noted that following a suggestion from last year, IC meeting minutes will list any decisions made by e-mail between meetings. Additionally, decisions before IOI but after the previous IC meeting will be announced during the GA meetings. Alas, he started this practice by making three announcements:

Contestant Eligibility

An immigrant studying the language of their new country (to prepare for finishing secondary school in that country) was deemed eligible.

Israel at IOI 2025

IC proposed that a representative of the Israeli Olympiad in Informatics be an Invited Guest at IOI 2025 and co-operated with the Host Country to facilitate this. The representative has been given permission to attend IOI 2025 GA meetings.

Palestine at IOI 2025

IC is working with the IOI 2025 hosts to enable representatives of Palestine (not in Sucre), to join the GA virtually to engage in any GA discussions about sanctions as much as possible.

Approval of contest rules and procedures

Zsolt Németh (HSC) reminded everyone that team leaders are responsible for ensuring their contestants are familiar with the contest rules, competition equipment and grading environment. He said these are all available online, but static versions will also be placed on contestant machines. He highlighted a couple relatively minor changes:

- more flexibility allowing problems to consist of a combination of programming and output-only subtasks, and
- setting of a clear and fixed protocol for submitting and resubmitting items brought into the contest hall.

A few warnings were also issued:

- there is limited table space in the 2025 contest hall,
- small under-desk compartments exist at some workstations but should not be used, and
- backpacks and phones will be allowed into the contest hall for the practice session but not on contest days.

Zsolt then elaborated on the protocols for items allowed into the contest hall discussing submission details, the rejection process, how to submit replacements for rejected items, and last-minute submissions for emergencies only. One explicit

provided example was that countries who had not arrived in Sucre yet would still be given an opportunity to submit items. Zsolt also gave reminders about provisions for providing extra time, end of competition procedures and the appeals process.

In conclusion, Zsolt discussed the grading environment including command line submission.

Jorge called for a vote to approve the rules. They were approved with no abstentions or votes against.

President's report

Sun Teck began his report by saying that before the pandemic, IOI felt like a global family reunion – a unique and warm gathering of like-minded educators and brilliant students. He said his report would focus on restoring this spirit by addressing key challenges faced from 2022 to 2024 and by highlighting major new initiatives and proposals.

The first challenge Sun Teck raised was the need for an Office of the IOI “rescue mission” to Bolivia in December 2024 to address major delays and the lack of progress in planning for IOI 2025. He said that during this trip, and two follow-up trips by Eljakim Schrijvers (IOI Treasurer), guidance was provided and detailed plans were made. Eljakim received a round of applause. Teck said the lesson learned is that the International Committee (IC) must remain focused on IOI's core mission.

Sun Teck next reported on the 2024 Gold Medallist Camp hosted by the Hong Kong Education Bureau and The Chinese University of Hong Kong in early January 2025. He said the event provided many benefits for participants affirmed by feedback gathered from post-event surveys. Sun Teck said plans are coming together for the 2025 Gold Medallist Camp to be held in Shanghai in early January 2026 at Fudan University. He called on team leaders to use this camp as motivation for their contestants.

The President then discussed two metaphorical treasure hunts. The first hunt was for new sponsors after the loss of a major sponsor following IOI 2024. He expressed thanks to new sponsors Hudson River Trading, OpenAI and DianMao acknowledging the important role Eljakim played in securing and working with sponsors. The second treasure hunt involved looking for future hosts. He lamented the fact that IOI had recently struggled to find countries willing to host IOI. As reasons for this, he cited the financial burden and things said at opening and closing ceremonies in 2022 and 2023 which prevented some countries from submitting bids. Sun Teck said that through personal outreach, he has lined up possible hosts up to 2031.

Sun Teck then discussed new ideas to generate additional revenue and to broaden the reach of IOI. He said IOI will need to form working groups to implement these new initiatives:

IOI AI Contests

Companies have been invited to have their AI systems compete against humans as a pioneer project to be formalized after IOI 2025. The objectives of this are to benchmark the current state of AI in competitive programming, encourage responsible AI development in informatics, and to foster collaboration between humans and artificial intelligence.

Side (Mirror) Contests

Running parallel to IOI, these competitions would use the same problems as IOI but would not impact the main scoreboard or medal boundaries. This would be open to any student globally for a fee. Participants would receive certificates of achievement (e.g., gold-level performance).

IOI for Kids

This is a plan to conduct contests for younger students. Its purpose is to introduce young learners to computational thinking by providing an engaging and age-appropriate introduction to algorithms, logic, and problem-solving. It is intended to inspire interest in computer science and to serve as a pipeline for identifying promising students who may eventually represent their countries at the IOI. Other objectives are to promote equity and access in informatics education, to foster a fun, safe, and inclusive learning environment, to encourage teacher and parent involvement, to support national and regional informatics ecosystems, and to build a global community of young problem solvers

Coach Training Camp

By targeting countries that have not received any medals or not any gold medals, a camp to train their leaders should improve their performance at IOI.

IOI Alumni Portal

Modeled after LinkedIn, this initiative would offer free membership to all past IOI participants and to be a valuable lifelong community and networking tool. It would generate revenue by asking alumni that land jobs through the network to contribute a one-time payment of 10% of monthly pay.

Sun Teck's last main discussion point was the IOI sanction policy. He said that after IOI 2024, he consulted other Olympiad presidents who reported similar political challenges as the IOI. Sun Teck presented an IPhO regulation clause which he said is a clear stance to avoid diplomatic disputes and conversations that make people uncomfortable. He said he would like to see the IOI adopt a similar rule. He said IMO recently affirmed its neutrality in mathematics and both EGOI 2025 and EGOI 2026 avoided sanctions. Sun Teck said that this is something we need to discuss and think carefully about.

In conclusion, Sun Teck said that IOI's resilience will be tested moving forward but it will emerge stronger. He said that with new partnerships, new ideas, and broader engagement, the IOI family will grow. Sun Teck thanked the GA for its trust and support asking it to keep IOI a beacon of excellence, unity, and inspiration for young minds worldwide.

Status of future hosts

Sun Teck recalled the content of his report about future hosts and said he hoped to make announcements later in the week.

Call for nominations

J.P. reminded everyone of the deadlines for openings on IC, ISC and ITC. He reminded the GA that three people are to be elected to IC (two for 3-year terms and one for a 1-year term) and one person is to be elected to each of ISC and ITC.

Code of Conduct reminder

J.P. reminded the GA of the Code of Conduct which is about treating others with respect. He asked that leaders familiarize themselves with the content even if they have reviewed it before. He also emphasized the importance of having an explicit conversation with all contestants about the intent of the Code of Conduct and the expectations it includes.

IOI Ally program

Ben Burton (IC) connected the Code of Conduct to the IOI Ally Program everyone should be aware of. He said it provides on-site, safe, trained and confidential points of contact on issues related to equity, diversity and inclusion, discrimination and harassment. Ben noted that the allies do not provide professional counselling or legal advice. He provided a link to the list of allies for IOI 2025 on the IOI website. Ben referenced Sun Teck's comments about needing to make everyone comfortable and said indeed, ideally, we should not need this program but every year we have had it, it has been used.

Sun Teck reminded everyone that the Code of Conduct applies to everyone, not only contestants.

Questions and comments

When Jorge called for questions or comments, Martin Mareš (ITC) asked for a show of hands of people who were having trouble getting power from the nearby sockets. About 20 placards went up.

Australia and The Netherlands asked what snacks would be provided during the contest and if they would include gluten free options. Jhonatan Castro (IC host representative) said he didn't know but would investigate and hoped at least bananas and water bottles would be provided.

Indonesia then asked Jhonatan to ensure enough non-pork protein was available for all contestant and leader meals.

GA Meeting 2

Issues arising from Practice Session

Zsolt and Martin provided a debrief on the Practice Session. They provided the following information:

- The session started 10 minutes late because of connectivity problems and long processing of the contestant queue.
- An issue with `./submit.sh` for one problem was fixed before the session but not pushed to all the machines.
- Task packages omitted a suffix of `.sh` for `./submit.sh` but the grading environment did not. This will be fixed.
- Nothing can be done about the complaints that desks are too small.
- Some desks have small compartments below them that contestants are not to use.
- Untidy cabling will be tidied before Competition Day 1.
- More paper will be provided during the contest than was provided during the practice session.

- The dividers are on the way to the contest hall and will be installed before Competition Day 1.
- Although there are two sizes of desks, the idea of students swapping stations to be more equitable has been deemed too risky by HSC. That said, it is open for discussion, and the GA could force this to happen now if they wished.
- Contestants may request that US layout stickers be placed on keyboards.
- Contestant phones are not permitted in the contest hall on competition days.
- The `perf` tool did not work but this will be fixed.
- The stack limit will be updated to 2GB but a request for unlimited stack size cannot be granted.
- If there is time, a Python extension for `vscode` will be installed.
- 1.5MB will be the size limit for source and output files.
- A public scoreboard will be available.
- The contest hall may be cold. Contestants are encouraged to dress appropriately.
- Misprinted badges will be reprinted and distributed.
- Contestants must not turn machines off after the contest.
- Links to C++ documentation will be added directly to the CMS.
- Some countries unable to make it to Bolivia might be participating unofficially online and this would delay the public posting of test data and problems statements. This official contest itself will be completely unaffected by the unofficial participation.

In response to questions, as well as repeating some previously shared information, Zsolt and Martin stated:

- Support is not provided for all development environments, but they would try to address any reported issues.
- The file size limit is per file.
- Dividers should address any ambiguity about who uses shared space between workstations.
- Each contestant will be given two bottles of water at the start of the contest.
- If long breakfast queues are a problem, then there may be no choice but to delay the start of the contest.
- Contestants have a way to determine how much time is left in the contest.

Approval of scrutineers for voting during GA meetings

Mohammad Ali Abam (Iran), Greg Lee (Taiwan) and Troy Vasiga (Canada) were unanimously approved as scrutineers for GA meetings during IOI 2025.

Regulations changes and long-term service awards

Eduard Kalinichenko (IC) said that IC is not proposing any regulation changes this year. He also noted that the regulation infrastructure is moving to use LaTeX via a public GitHub repository and that Fredrik Niemelä (IC) would be taking over stewardship of the regulation changes.

Eduard apologized saying that long-term service awards would not be presented this year because he was unable to update the IOI statistics website sufficiently far in advance of IOI.

Discussion from the floor

The United Kingdom commented on the president's speech at the opening ceremony. They felt his comments about some people treating the IOI as a cheap holiday was not appropriate. Sun Teck responded to say that this perception comes from some countries' very poor contest performances. He said this is one of the motivations for creating a coach training camp and that people have asked him to do an investigation. He then apologized for raising this during the opening ceremonies.

Sun Teck continued to say he was told that some of the claims in his report about sanctions at other Olympiads were misleading or false. He said he did not confirm them all in advance, but his goal was to give everyone something to think about. He said he is happy to provide any corrections (e.g. EGOI removed some but not all sanctions, and that for IPhO, the host country has ultimate say so despite their clause about avoiding diplomatic issues, sanctions have occurred at IPhO).

Iceland spoke to say they agree with much of what the president is trying to do but that the opening ceremony was a completely inappropriate place for much of what he tried to say. There was applause. Sun Teck reiterated concerns about failed attempts to raise the IOI fee in the past, difficulties in finding hosts and shouting matches at recent GA meetings. He questioned whether anything happened to improve the IOI over the past three years.

Iceland clarified that they were not speaking to agree or disagree with any of this but rather to say the opening ceremony was not the appropriate time or place for these comments. Sun Teck said he understands this but that this IOI should be the starting point for a change in direction.

Ben spoke to say he is trying to stay quiet this year because he is no longer president, but he did want to say that he feels there were many improvements during his presidency, and he thanked the GA for this.

Sun Teck said he has heard these opinions and can accept criticism. He asked for other comments or suggestions and not hearing any, he encouraged future discussions on these topics in the days ahead.

GA Meeting 3

Announcements

Zsolt indicated how late material submissions for Competition Day 1 could be considered.

Martin said he purchased some adapters that should allow everyone in the GA room to power their devices.

Dushinka Flores (IOI 2025 organizer) announced that Eljakim will be collecting registration fees this evening.

AI competition

Sun Teck acknowledged concern that had been expressed and apologized for the lack of communication about the AI competition. He said this was his oversight and he sought to clarify what was happening this year:

- One company was participating on-site, supervised at the same time as the contestants but without affecting them.
- Four companies were participating offsite where the extent of human intervention could not be guaranteed.
- There is a one-week moratorium on the announcement of results of AI systems' attempts to solve the problems.

Sun Teck said this year was an experiment and he encouraged everyone to come together to discuss the idea. He elaborated further on his ideas for future years saying:

- Formal invitations should be drafted and sent to selected AI research teams.
- Objectives, structure, expectations, and the significance of official participation should be clearly outlined.
- Revenues could fund other important IOI initiatives.

Indonesia sought more clarification on the details and Luca Versari (ITC) spoke to answer their questions.

Mexico asked how much money AI companies were paying to participate this year. Luca said he was unable to answer. When Canada asked this question again later, Fredrik said he felt it was not enough. Others indicated that it is not possible to divulge exact figures.

New Zealand said that given ramifications of an AI contest, it should be discussed in the GA and not only during discussion groups. Sun Teck said the issue is that there are many topics competing for GA time. New Zealand said that even so, they hoped there would be some sort of vote on the issue. They added that it is also important that the GA be given time to discuss concerns about the president's opening ceremony speech and report to the GA.

Indonesia called for a straw poll on whether everyone was okay with the AI competition planned for the next day. There was lots of chatter. Luxembourg emphasized that their primary concern (but not only concern) was about the lack of transparency.

J.P. began to moderate saying that concerns about transparency and many details of the AI competition have been voiced and heard. A solid majority of the GA then indicated in a straw poll that they were ``mostly okay'' with the planned AI competition. This poll was taken with the understanding that it in no way indicated happiness with all the details, nor did it imply support for future AI competitions at IOI.

Responding to Greece, Luca said they reached out to more than six AI companies to solicit interest in participating.

Australia expressed concern about claims made about other competitions by some companies on social media and asked that the IC strongly enforce its rules about communication and publicity surrounding the AI competition.

The discussion continued a while longer with anger about the lack of transparency repeated several times.

Task selection for Competition Day 1

Zsolt outlined the details of the nature of major and minor objections, how to make objections, where to place additional comments, how to access and use translation accounts, things to avoid, the experimental use of machine translation, selecting languages, details on the finalization of task statements, printing details and the expected schedule.

Zsolt also highlighted two updates since IOI 2024:

- In addition to Google Translate, DeepL is available for machine translation, but users are cautioned that some languages are supported by only one of the translators.
- If another team wants to use your translation, you can *Promise* to complete it. Then the other team may finalize their translation even if your translation is not yet finalized. Their printing will be delayed until you finalize.

The question was raised about how we enforce that the right set of people are in the room during translation. That is, concern was expressed that only people translating be present and certainly nobody who will see the contestants before the next contest day should remain in the room after the problem statements are distributed. Zsolt and J.P. recognized that this has often been a problem without a good solution.

Zsolt talked through the procedure for filing objections, and how the ISC/HSC will respond. Martin then talked through how delegation leaders will receive their accounts on the task translation system. He emphasised that leaders should not use online AI tools to help with translation and then described the experimental machine translation system that is provided specifically for the GA with appropriate guarantees of privacy. He talked through how leaders can request any translations for their contestants, in addition to the official English statements which everyone will receive.

Zsolt then outlined the schedule for the evening, and the tasks *Souvenirs*, *Triple Peaks*, and *World Map* were distributed to the delegation leaders. Later, upon receiving no major objections, the entire set of tasks was approved unanimously by the GA.

GA Meeting 4

Report on Competition Day 1

Zsolt was pleased to report that everyone entered the hall about 15 minutes before the start of the contest and the contest started on time.

Zsolt said most clarification requests involved minor technical issues, but there were some clarification requests on the rules and grading environment for which the response copied relevant parts of the documents. He mentioned two problem-specific issues:

- For *Souvenirs*, there was a query on conditions on receiving an Invalid Argument verdict when using the callable function. These were clarified.
- For *World Map*, there were three questions about the connectedness of the graph. These students were referred to the task statement.
- Also for *World Map*, two example cases (in a single test file) were in reversed order in the CMS. An announcement was made, and the test data were not modified.

Zsolt said there were three extra time requests, but no extra time was given. He said one request was mildly serious, another was a misunderstanding regarding the timing in the CMS, and a third one was related to the network outage. Adding more detail, he explained that for several contestants, there was a network outage during the middle of the contest lasting 20 minutes. Since this happened very far from the end of the contest and students could continue working on tasks and implementing solutions, Zsolt said it was decided that this was not grounds for extra time.

Appeals for Competition Day 1

Zsolt announced that there were no appeals.

Before moving to the technical report, Zsolt informed the GA that there was a potential scoreboard leak: a contestant reported seeing the scoreboard on a projector screen in one of the sponsor booths while being escorted to the toilet.

Martin then provided some technical information on Competition Day 1:

- Keyboards with English layout stickers can still be requested.
- Contestants' solutions will be sent by email at the end of Competition Day 2.

- There were scoreboard issues: 40 minutes before the end of the contest it was reported that some submissions were missing from the scoreboard. The root cause was having proxies between CMS and the ranking web server. The issue was solved within 25 minutes by passing proxies.
- Workspace dividers had not arrived by the evening before the contest, and so a group of volunteers created ad-hoc dividers with cardboard boxes.
- There were network issues: a group of 20 contestants lost their network connection due to a faulty network cable between switches. This was fixed in 20 minutes, and the impact on contestants was low.
- Several contestants used the submit command for offline submission, and all such submissions were accepted.
- There was also a power outage. This was an outage of the power line to the building: the battery backup worked but would only last for 60 minutes on contestant machines and 30 minutes on the contest servers. The diesel generator in the building (which ITC had tried to test but were not able to) did not work. Fortunately, the outage only lasted for 20 minutes. There was essentially no effect on contestants (except for a beeping noise and a disappearing countdown).

Australia asked a question about the quarantine procedure: if a delegation has a guest who is there to look after the contestants and is not participating in the GA, it has in the past been possible for that guest to meet the students in the morning when quarantine is active. This was disallowed on Competition Day 1, and the question was whether this will be possible for Competition Day 2. ISC apologised and explained that this should have been possible.

Switzerland said that there was a bag of snacks that was not delivered to a contestant's table.

The United Kingdom said that they expected contestants would go to the contest hall with the guides; however, the guides were posted elsewhere blocking traffic. ISC said they would see if they could work with the hosts to fix this for Competition Day 2.

Discussion of sanctions

(At this point, Palestine joined the meeting via Zoom.)

Sun Teck opened the discussion. He began by giving his own opinion. He suggested that years of sanctions have not helped us resolve the core issues, that we have achieved nothing through prolonged debates and arguments over this matter, and that our true mission (developing IOI and nurturing young informatics talent) has been sidetracked. He suggested that these measures don't punish governments but instead may hurt the students who we claim to support. He talked about planting seeds of resentment and leading to a vicious cycle of misunderstanding and mistrust. He asked IOI to re-focus on our purpose and to commit to unity and opportunity for all.

The current state of sanctions in other Olympiads was then presented with Eduard talking through this. Türkiye corrected the table by noting that Israel does not compete in EJOI. The corrected version is shown below.

Olympiad	Sanctions on Russia	Sanctions on Belarus	Sanctions on Israel	Development from 2025 Olympiad
IOI	Participation without country affiliation	Participation without country affiliation	Participation without country affiliation	<i>Olympiad not completed</i>
IMO	Online participation without country affiliation	No sanctions	No sanctions	Sanctions on Russia removed
IPhO	Participation without country affiliation in 2025 (decisions on any sanctions are left with the host)	Participation without country affiliation in 2025 (decisions on any sanctions are left with the host)	No sanctions	No discussion to change current status at GA
ICHO	Participation without country affiliation	Participation without country affiliation	No sanctions	No discussion to change current status at GA
IGeO	Excluded	No sanctions	No sanctions, Israel does not participate	<i>Olympiad not completed</i>
IBO	Participation without country affiliation	Participation without country affiliation	No sanctions	No discussion to change current status at GA
EGOI	Excluded	Participation without country affiliation in 2025, re-evaluated every year	No sanctions	Sanctions on Belarus not renewed
EJOI	Excluded	Participation without country affiliation in 2025, re-evaluated every year	No sanctions, Israel does not participate	<i>Olympiad not completed</i>

Sun Teck asked the GA to avoid heated arguments, and to argue against others' opinions but not attack other people.

He said the IC initially proposed voting individually on the sanctions on Russia, Belarus and Israel during GA 7. However, GA was invited to bring any alternative proposals forward to the IC before 2pm the next day.

Sun Teck then opened the discussion to the floor, with Wolfgang Pohl (IC) moderating.

Ukraine spoke first to say they do not understand why we are revisiting this discussion again, given that we voted on it last year and nothing has changed since. They then talked about the recent decision at IMO 2025 to remove sanctions. They cited effects including other countries opting to no longer participate in IMO, and IMO medallists returning their medals.

New Zealand addressed the president's remarks. To the suggestion that we have achieved nothing, they said that we have achieved standing up for moral values and this sends a message and gives permission for other organisations to stand up for these values also. To the suggestion that these measures punish students not governments, they noted that students can still compete, earn medals and meet other people from around the world. At this point Sun Teck interrupted and noted that Israel had opted not to attend in 2025 due to these sanctions, though this was a decision by Israel's own government. New Zealand then continued noting that it can, over time, become easy to "get used to" things that are happening in the world, but this is not a reason to reverse sanctions that we have placed in the past. They also noted that undoing a previous political decision is itself a political decision.

Iceland added that if Israel not allowing its students to attend is us punishing them, then when other countries do not allow their teams to attend because we remove sanctions on Russia, we would also be punishing them. It was asked which countries these were: Iceland clarified that they include a few such European countries close to Russia's border, including Ukraine, Romania, the Baltic states and others.

Türkiye said they are more in line with the president and noted that this was his presidential election platform last year in which he won a unanimous vote. They said that we must remove these sanctions because otherwise we must discuss this every time similar things happen in other parts of the world. They said we are having two separate events every year: contestants have a competition, and leaders have a completely unrelated political forum. They suggested we have lost sponsors and are unable to find hosts, and that the quality of the IOI has reduced as a result. They added that we do not have enough time in the GA to discuss the issues of the world - we need to discuss issues of the IOI, such as the new ideas raised by the president. They claimed that we should not fight amongst ourselves just because politicians fight amongst themselves. Wolfgang then clarified that we will be discussing the president's new ideas.

Estonia strongly opposed any discussion of sponsors and said this was completely inappropriate.

New Zealand asked why the Palestinian delegation cannot compete this year. They then said that the Israeli delegation has chosen not to compete and highlighted the difference between having such a choice and not having a choice.

North Macedonia talked about the double standards of having two sets of rules, and said their opinion is in line with the president's opinion: we should not impose sanctions based on political or diplomatic issues. They said this is not because we should be blind to problems that arise, but because we are not qualified to go into these issues. They repeated the concerns about spending GA time on these issues. They suggested there are double standards and spoke against voting on each sanctioned country individually. In fact, they stated a preference for a vote to not ever impose sanctions for political reasons.

Someone added that it's hard to be inclusive with a country that does not even admit the existence of Ukraine as a country. Moreover, they added that they respect the IOI President's view to separate country and students, but many Russians accept their government's viewpoint. They asked Ukraine if they think that the Russian delegation is aligned with Ukraine or not.

Upon being asked about this, Ukraine highlighted that their hometown is being bombed right now and they talked about the realities of the war as it is happening in the moment.

Israel's representative made two points. First: they reminded us that last year both Israel and Palestine were facing potential sanctions. They added that Israel could not compete then due to the host location (Egypt), and they were not able to participate fully in the meeting. They said Israel is in a special situation and asked if the GA knows enough about the conflict to make a moral decision. Secondly, they said competing with many people from around the world is valuable, especially for countries who are in conflict. They added that not participating under a flag puts students at a disadvantage and in an uncomfortable situation.

Hearing that the three current sanctions may be voted on separately, Belgium wondered why the Schulze method was not being used. Wolfgang answered that IC did not consider the three votes to be related to each other, but if a combined vote was desired by GA, then they are welcome to make such a proposal.

Switzerland noted that we are not experts in world affairs; however, some people are much more expert than us and they write reports that we can read. They suggest looking at international court documents to make our decisions.

Türkiye asked to correct the voting plan: they said that the GA is only allowed to apply a sanction for one year, and that if a vote is not taken every year, then all sanctions are removed automatically. Fredrik (IC) replied that this is factually incorrect: if we do nothing then the sanctions remain adding that the vote to remove a sanction requires a 50% majority.

Slovenia asked where in the regulations we have anything regarding sanctions. Wolfgang (IC) said that the sanctions were breaking regulations in some way and noted that the regulations allow us to break the regulations.

Ben (IC) made the point there have been discussions about making IOI apolitical, but he believes that we already are. He said we are not making decisions on politics; this is not politics; this is full scale invasion, starvation, and mass deaths of civilians and children. He observed that these are not situations we have created to discuss in GA; these have been given to us. He continued to say we don't like it, but we must take the responsibility with these questions: It's a shit sandwich and we must decide which bite to take. Being more specific he said if we keep the sanctions, we will have to keep discussing this but if we remove the sanctions, we also make a political statement. Ben asserted that the current solution is a reasonable compromise: The current sanctions are focused as much as possible on the countries, and as little as possible on the students.

France agreed with Ben that this is not politics. Speaking about sponsors, they said if we lost sponsors because of sanctions, we may also lose some by not sanctioning. They suggested that sanctions should apply if a country impacts another country's training and selection process for IOI.

Wolfgang thanked everyone for the discussion and for trying to adhere to the chair's requests.

GA Meeting 5

Group discussion details

Fredrik announced the new initiatives that will form topics for the group discussions:

- IOI AI Contests
- Side (Mirror) Contests
- IOI for Kids
- Coach Training Camp
- IOI Alumni Portal

Sanction vote details

Ben reminded the GA that it will vote on the IOI's existing sanctions during GA 7 after discussing them last night. He explained that IC took its starting point and feedback from the GA to develop what we believe to be a list of all possible options:

- A) Keep all current sanctions in place (Belarus, Israel, Russia).
- B) Lift sanctions for Belarus, keep sanctions for Israel and Russia.
- C) Lift sanctions for Israel, keep sanctions for Belarus and Russia.
- D) Lift sanctions for Russia, keep sanctions for Belarus and Israel.
- E) Lift sanctions for Belarus and Israel, keep sanctions for Russia.
- F) Lift sanctions for Belarus and Russia, keep sanctions for Israel.
- G) Lift sanctions for Israel and Russia, keep sanctions for Belarus.
- H) Lift all current sanctions (Belarus, Israel, Russia).
- I) Lift all current sanctions, and task IC to draft regulations that clarifies that IOI must not sanction any members.

Ben described the new plan to hold a preferential vote using the Schulze method which will be followed by a second vote to confirm the winning option. He said this matches what has happened in the past. He explained that if the second vote fails, we keep the status quo.

Czechia asked if a vote is still needed if Option A wins. Ben acknowledged that such a vote would be moot resulting in no change from the status quo either way so if that happens, we will decide on the spot what to do.

Türkiye said that according to IOI regulations, all countries have the right to participate. They commented that since we were using a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to override regulations to put sanctions in place anyway, it doesn't make any difference if we add regulations that disallow sanctions. They concluded that this renders Options H and I equivalent. Ben explained that the

reason we are including Option I is because there was a proposal from the President to add a new regulation along these lines. Ben also observed that GA members can choose to weight any set of options equally if they wish.

Answering Switzerland, Ben said Option I would not require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority because it is not creating a regulation but rather only instructing IC to draft a regulation for the GA to consider in the future.

Other questions

Malaysia asked the president for clarification on two things about his report. First, they wanted to know why a major sponsor was lost after IOI 2024. Second, they didn't remember anything unusual at recent opening and closing ceremonies so wanted to know what was said that led to some countries not wanting to submit bids to host IOI.

Sun Teck answered the first question to say the decision to sanction Israel led to the loss of two sponsors. He said he agrees with people that this should not influence what decisions the IOI makes, and he was simply reporting what happened.

Sun Teck answered the other question to say that in 2022 and 2023, the IOI president mentioned that he had a husband during opening and closing ceremonies. Following this, Sun Teck said he was speaking to countries about submitting bids, but they expressed concern about financial obstacles as well as the fact that statements like this in their country would lead to them being captured and jailed.

New Zealand followed up to thank Sun Teck for the clarification but say they needed to share a statement with apologies to the GA because it was lengthy. Their statement was cosigned by the deputy leader from Australia. It expressed serious concern about the conduct of President Sun Teck Tan saying that instead of creating a safe and supportive environment, his views and actions have upset many people and violated the Code of Conduct. They cited comments in his opening ceremony speech insinuating that there are countries that see IOI as an inexpensive holiday. They noted many personal attacks Sun Teck has made against Ben. Recalling their private conversation with Sun Teck the night before, they highlighted his comments about (i) a student seeing/hearing that someone is gay and returning home from the IOI gay, and (ii) as a parent, he would not want his child to return from the IOI "not normal". Adding to this, New Zealand objected to the president's incorrect information about sanctions at other Olympiads selected to support his own agenda, and they also objected to the lack of transparency around the AI competition at IOI. They said Sun Teck did not himself acknowledge or apologize for these things and moved that the president of IOI be removed from office, in accordance with regulation A3.6. New Zealand said that they have spoken to many delegations on these issues, who have the same concerns. They added that the motion is explicitly supported by Ireland, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Iceland and privately supported by multiple delegations from Southeast Asia who feel they cannot say so publicly for fear of retaliation.

New Zealand's statement was followed by considerable applause.

Sun Teck indicated that he would accept any motion proposed by the GA but that he wanted to say a few things in response. He began by noting that the things he said during the opening ceremony were true; he was repeating what he was told – there are students not performing well at IOI because they are not well trained by their country. He said he also observed that the IOI used to be like a family, but now we are shouting at each other. He contradicted claims that he did not apologize noting that he quickly apologized for errors in the information he presented about sanctions at other Olympiads. He asked for other instances where he did not apologize. Referring to the private discussion with New Zealand the night before, he said it lasted 20 or 25 minutes but only two of his statements were quoted in New Zealand's follow-up complaint. Sun Teck said this is not okay; many things were said. Next, Sun Teck said we can't ignore the rights of everyone else. He claimed that $\frac{1}{3}$ of countries cannot host IOI because their religion or government does not allow it. He said it is not true that he doesn't support LGBTQ people. Sun Teck said he is a Roman Catholic and follows the teaching of the pope who says all humans should be treated equally. In summary, Sun Teck reiterated that he does not have any problem with LGBTQ people, but we also must respect the rights of others because other cultures have other perspectives. He emphasized that this is IOI; this is informatics.

New Zealand retorted that you cannot say that you support LGBTQ and say those two things. They said you cannot say that being Catholic absolves you from discrimination. They claimed that their entire discussion the previous night was filled with this type of rhetoric. New Zealand said they took issue with Sun Teck continually saying that if someone was outwardly gay in front of others, it would violate the Code of Conduct because it makes them uncomfortable. They said this is not what the Code of Conduct says, instead it says that if someone is uncomfortable with what you are saying, you must stop and think. New Zealand underscored that being gay is perfectly acceptable and gay people should not have to hide who they are. They disagreed that Sun Teck's statements made during their discussion were taken out of context.

Sun Teck disagreed saying the Code of Conduct says that if what you say makes someone uncomfortable, then you should stop. He said in 2022, he asked J.P. to inform Ben that he (Sun Teck) felt uncomfortable but sure enough, Ben repeated what he said in 2023. Sun Teck said it is good to fight for your rights, but you must fight for the rights of others too and

some students will have concerns about these comments. Sun Teck said different people and different cultures have different worries; some may be concerned about their children turning gay.

Austria spoke to state three facts.

- If you hear about someone being gay, there is no risk that you will turn gay.
- If we are considering a host country where someone would face the death penalty for exposing themselves as gay, then our students would not be safe there.
- The Code of Conduct does not say what Sun Teck says it does. Lots of things make us uncomfortable. We can feel uncomfortable when some disagrees with us. Instead, the Code of Conduct says to stop and think when you say something that makes someone uncomfortable. It is not a blanket restriction saying you should never make people feel uncomfortable by what you say.

Sun Teck responded to say that what is being said in the opening ceremonies is being said to the whole world. He questioned why one would continue to say things like a man mentioning they have a husband. Sun Teck said that the last president claims to be a role model, but with this encouragement, it guides you to have the tendency. He said in most of these potential hosts countries, everyone is okay and safe in the streets but if you say something objectionable, then the host country cannot ignore it. Sun Teck noted that Ben did not mention his husband in 2024 and hypothesized that it was because it could be problematic in a Muslim country. Sun Teck concluded to say that he has now shared his opinion and if others don't like it, they can vote for his removal as President in GA 7.

Ireland said many students and parents would not be comfortable with kids being sent to places where they cannot express themselves. They asked why we should listen to one set of parents and not the other.

Türkiye said most of the GA comes from a country where governments come to power after an election based on a platform, but often these politicians don't stick to their platform. They said, here in this case, Sun Teck was clear about this position and now he is simply sticking to his promises. Türkiye mused that people may not want to run for president in its current form because the GA has spent three years talking about world politics and gender identity issues without time to talk about IOI issues. They applauded Sun Teck for accepting the position, coming with ideas, and being voted in unanimously because he was the only candidate. They expressed disappointment about not yet being given the opportunity to discuss his ideas. Türkiye asked to stop the current discussion because it was already 9pm and the current meeting was reserved for the translation of Competition Day 2 tasks.

Sun Teck thanked Türkiye for the comments and agreed that the discussion should stop but said a vote should still occur.

Canada spoke to first address one of the previous points made by Türkiye. They recalled that the last election was not unanimous; it was uncontested; about one fifth of the GA voted to "leave the seat vacant". Next, Canada said Benjamin Burton is a role model because he is intelligent, passionate and cares about the IOI. They do not care who he loves. They advised Sun Teck that he is digging himself deeper in a hole every time he speaks.

Greece said they don't want to downplay the important discussion, but the GA does need to translate. They suggested the topic be given the time it deserves but at the next meeting.

Luxembourg strongly rejected Türkiye's comment that nobody wanted to take over the IOI presidency in its current form because of these debates noting that there are many reasons someone may choose not to run for president.

Norway said they are hearing much of this for the first time and asked the president who should not be openly gay. They wondered if it applies to leaders, committee members, etc.

Algeria switched to a new topic wanting to ensure people knew that Palestine only received the Zoom link four hours before the meeting because of technical problems.

New Zealand returned to the topic of the presidency observing that while much of the discussion had been about Sun Teck's comments on LGBTQ people, it is only one of many concerns they expressed. They asserted that many people have been upset by many things Sun Teck has said.

Ben said it was indeed difficult to find hosts during his presidency, but correlation does not equal causation. He noted that he became president just as we came out of the pandemic. Ben said that does not mean the pandemic was the reason it was difficult to secure future hosts, just that we do not know the real reasons. He asked that the GA read last year's GA minutes for an explanation of why he said what he said. Ben added that he has no regrets.

Task selection for Competition Day 2

Zsolt said the same processes and systems would be used on Competition Day 2 as on Competition Day 1. The tasks *Festival*, *Migrations*, and *Obstacles for a Llama* were distributed and sometime later, upon receiving no major objections, the entire set of tasks was approved unanimously.

GA Meeting 6

J.P. showed a slightly modified agenda for GA 6 and GA 7 pointing out that much of GA 7 is meant to be votes with the understanding that the corresponding discussion has already occurred.

Report on Competition Day 2

Zsolt said everyone entered the contest hall at least 20 minutes before the start of the competition which then started on time. He said clarification requests were made on minor technical issues, rules, verdicts, and the grading environment. He said clarifications were given in response to 10 questions about the use of global variables for Migrations and they answered one question about the first subtask for Migrations because it looked like a small mistake in translation.

Zsolt said there were four requests for extra time, but none were granted.

Appeals for Competition Day 2

Zsolt said there were again no appeals on the second day of competition.

He announced that there were 330 official contestants and provided likely medal cutoff boundaries. He said there is a slight uncertainty on the exact values because of some rounding issues but updates will not affect the relative ordering of any contestants.

Luca then listed a small number of technical issues experienced on Competition Day 2:

- One Ethernet cable became slower (100Mbit/s) at the start of the contest. Since the disruption would not be noticeable, ITC did not try to fix this.
- A contestant logged themselves out and was told the password to log back in.
- Some issues occurred with mice and were quickly replaced.
- Minor connectivity issues fixed themselves before they could be investigated
- Yesterday's switch configuration changes caused backups not to work properly. Fortunately, no backups were needed.

Results and confirmation of medals

The GA then voted to confirm the results and medals with no votes against and no abstentions. This was followed by a huge round of applause for people on the scientific and technical committees.

Presentations by candidates for IC, ISC and ITC

J.P. facilitated this portion of the agenda calling each candidate to speak. The candidates were:

IC

Michal Forišek
Anton Tsypko
Arnar Bjarni Arnarson
Fatih Demirci
Jacob Vilella Vilahur
Mile Jovanov

ISC

Félix Moreno Peñarrubia
Zsolt Németh
Ashley Aragorn Koo

ITC

Amirkeivan Mohtashami

Troy then led the GA through a test of our voting systems (both using the Schulze method and for yes/no/abstain votes).

Italy expressed a concern about the Nonce field resulting in a privacy concern. Martin said he is happy to address this and other questions and will follow-up on Matrix.

Martin then provided details about the results page upon request by Greece.

Switzerland and Hungary made some observations about checking how you voted.

Jorge brought the GA to a close inviting everyone to a party.

GA Meeting 7

Election of members of IC, ISC and ITC

Representing the scrutineers, Troy started the election for open positions on IOI committees. After reviewing the voting instructions, he conducted the election.

Michal Forišek, Jacobo Vilella Vilahur and Arnar Bjarni Arnarson were elected to IC.

Zsolt Németh was elected to ISC.

Amirkeivan Mohtashami was ratified as the new member of ITC.

Regulations

Eduard said he just put a link on Matrix to the previously mentioned public IOI regulation repository. He expressed many thanks to Darko Pevec (Slovenia) for helping with this work. Then Eduard passed the “regulations baton” to Fredrik.

J.P. spoke to express much gratitude to Eduard, as he leaves IC, for his work on the regulations. He emphasized that together with all Eduard’s work on IOI statistics and other IC business, he has devoted countless hours to the community, and his work should be celebrated. The GA expressed appreciation to Eduard with a warm round of applause.

Vote on sanctions

Troy ran the Schulze preferential vote on existing sanctions. The winning option was (A) Keep all current sanctions in place (Belarus, Israel, Russia). He said that given that this is the status quo, no follow up vote was required. He thanked the GA for their patience and participation.

Report from the ITC

Martin took the microphone as Chair of ITC. He said that at IOI 2025, ITC used its long-term memory to help the host with planning of contest infrastructure. He said it also acted as a “fire brigade” helping with an exceptionally high number of technical issues. Luckily, he said that the impact on contestants was minor, and he thanked HTC for their cooperation.

Martin listed new software used at this IOI and supported by ITC:

- a new election system.
- a revived development of CMS,
- an updated translation system, and
- automated maintenance of Matrix rooms based on data from the registration system.

Martin reminded the GA that feedback and contributions are encouraged pointing to the webpage for ITC at <https://itc.ioinformatics.org/> and IOI tools available at <https://ioi.github.io/>.

In conclusion, Martin listed ITC’s current long-term projects for which contributions are also welcome: (i) security of grading, (ii) performance of CMS, (iii) efficient grading of interactive tasks, and (iv) new programming languages.

Report from the ISC

Zsolt was thrilled to announce that a whopping 96 task proposals were received. He also declared a tweak to their process a success saying this change from “beta testers” to a “testing team” led to a completely revamped task and an updated composition of Competition Day 2.

Zsolt thanked and publicly acknowledged many contributors:

Competition Day 1 Task Authors

Souvenirs: Félix Moreno Peñarrubia (Spain)

Triple Peaks: Kamil Dębowski (Poland)

World Map: Masataka Yoneda and Hirotaka Yoneda (Japan)

Competition Day 2 Task Authors

Festival: Masataka Yoneda and Hirotaka Yoneda (Japan)

Migrations: Masataka Yoneda and Hirotaka Yoneda (Japan)

Obstacles for a Llama: Sunghyeon Jo (South Korea)

Unused backup problem authors:

Hsieh Chong Ho (Hong Kong)
Brian Tsai (Taiwan)
Amir Mohammad Shahrezaei (Iran)

HSC

Zsolt Németh (chair)
Arthur Nascimento
Marcos Kolodny
Ronaldo Franco Jaldin
Alexis Jaime Vargas Quelca
Shamir Leonardo Teran Mustafa
Carlos Miguel Soto
Lautaro Lasorsa
Danner Zein Tonconi Mendoza
Nicolás Armando Alba Murillo
Fabricio Javier Cabrera Gordillo

Testing Team

Péter Gyimesi
Alperen Tupurtu
Cristhian Bonilha
Abolfazl Soltani
Pikatan Arya Bramajati
Ali Shahali
Soheil Mohammadkhani
AmirMohamad Shahrezaei
Wojciech Nadara
Nima Naderi
Soroush Sahraei

Agustín Santiago Gutiérrez (Chair of ISC) then congratulated Zsolt and HSC for their excellent work. He described the duties of ISC and listed and thanked its members. Agustín noted that the IOI 2025 task statistics suggest they met the goal of reaching contestants at all levels. He then provided a few miscellaneous updates on the IOI Syllabus and contest rules.

Agustín then gave ISC's stance on AI participation stating a strong preference for onsite participation for which companies bring hardware and the IOI monitors and enforces limits. He highlighted two important goals for AI participation rules:

- Minimize any kind of interference with the "human IOI" (i.e. the whole IOI proceeds essentially as always for delegations, especially contestants)
- Guarantee that AI participation is well controlled and there is no room for cheating (e.g. no chance of uncontrolled human intervention / task leaking)

Within this context, Agustín said there is a consensus in ISC that AI participation is interesting and something they are willing to work towards. He noted that it will cause extra work for committees and thus should only happen if there is very significant benefit to the IOI.

When mentioning hybrid task formats, Agustín pointed out that it is okay to submit problems that may not match current rules and format. He said it is best to submit an idea even if there is uncertainty about what is possible because ISC may be able to use an idea even if it requires tweaking the problem or rules (with the appropriate notice and approvals).

Special guest

An alpaca then entered and wandered around the GA room providing a moment of calm and levity.

Financial matters

The special guest's appearance had been arranged by Eljakim in advance of his financial report which included the following details:

- Hudson River Trading was unable to get all their goodies for participants to Sucre, but delegations are encouraged to use the form in their pigeonholes to arrange for delivery of swag after IOI 2025.
- Money from sponsors flowed through the IOI Foundation to hosts to pay for many things.
- Huge thanks are owed to Zsolt, Luca and Martin for all they have done behind the scenes.
- There is nothing unusual about the final IOI 2024 income (23.800 Euros) and expenses (7.090 Euros).
- Total IOI assets as of the end of 2024 are 180.052 Euros.
- In 2025, no money was spent on projects.
- In 2025, having a bank balance was helpful because it meant we could pay for things in Bolivia immediately to secure bookings before money from sponsors was transferred.
- Three sponsors provided substantial support, and other smaller donations were secured to fund bonus extra expenses.
- The budget for 2026 is very similar to that of 2025. Almost the only difference is a line for payment for the registration system which was added by IC. This goes to Eljakim who provides the system, so he wanted to

highlight it for transparency reasons. It was also noted that this was a decision made by IC when Eljakim was not in the room.

With no questions or objections, the budget was accepted by the GA.

Secretary's report

J.P. first reported on his regular business as Secretary. He listed Costa Rica, Ghana, Liechtenstein, United Arab Emirates as new members of IOI and indicated membership inquiries came from Angola, Cameroon, Jamaica, Kenya, Kosovo, Nepal, Paraguay, Qatar, Zimbabwe since March. He also noted that no nominations were received for a Distinguished Service Award.

Next, J.P. pointed people to the new registration system saying it allows countries to provide and update (i) the name of the organization behind their delegation, (ii) website and email to publish on the IOI members website and (iii) which direct email address the Office of the IOI should use for primary contact between events. J.P. asked that leaders verify this information annually when registering and said any changes between IOIs can always be made by sending him a request from the currently listed official e-mail address on file. The GA was also reminded to keep their subscriptions to the IOI mailing lists current.

Finally, the Secretary noted that several complaints about national organizations were received since IOI 2024. He said most complaints are about the fairness of team selection/eligibility. The GA was informed that when the Office of the IOI receives a complaint, the seriousness, validity and source are assessed and priority is placed on resolving things internally (nationally). He added that natural justice requires that the organization of a national delegation be given a chance to respond to concerns, but care must be taken because whistleblowers can be in a difficult position.

IOI Projects

Ágnes Németh (IC) spoke about IOI projects noting that a good project is one which (i) serves the community, not just one country, (ii) is free for community members, (iii) is a new fresh idea worth implementing, and (iv) generates reasonable expectations of achievement. She outlined what documentation is needed to submit a proposal and announced a deadline of January 31, 2026, for proposals. She said that after this, IC will select proposals for approval by the GA at IOI 2026.

Following this, Giorgio Audrito (Italy) spoke about QuizMS which is a current funded project. It is a framework for customizable quiz competitions.

Then Luca Versari (ITC) spoke about wasm-ide, another funded project. It is an online IDE with local wasm-based compilation and execution, which requires minimal resources on the server and can be used to provide new students with a feature-complete environment.

Proposals from GA members

A private vote was then taken on the following motion:

Remove Sun Teck Tan as president of IOI in accordance with regulation A3.6.

The motion required a 2/3 majority and was defeated. There were 39 votes in favour of the motion, 34 votes against the motion and 3 abstentions.

The United Kingdom followed up to say that the president has spoken to us about the need for the IOI to unify and reconstruct. They said they therefore encourage the president to reflect on if he is a figure of unity considering the results of the vote.

Sun Teck thanked the GA for keeping him on as president. He said that the discussion was not unanimous, and he appreciates the expressions of support he received. He said he will try not to make people uncomfortable with what he says and will keep working to improve the future of IOI.

Announcement of future host(s)

Sun Teck announced that IC proposes Japan as the host of IOI 2028. He noted that it would follow a 7-day schedule for budget reasons and hopes this is not a major concern. The GA then voted to confirm this choice with many votes for, no votes against and two abstentions.

Next, Sun Teck announced that IC proposes Bulgaria as the host for IOI 2029. He noted that Bulgaria hosted IOI in 1989 and 2009, and they have indicated interest in hosting IOI every 20 years. The GA also voted to confirm this choice with many votes for, one vote against and no abstentions.

Finally, Sun Teck said that bids are welcome from IOI 2030 noting that IC has already heard of some interesting proposals.

Notice on the proper usage of large objects in closing ceremony

Sun Teck reminded the GA that as usual we don't want objects on stage during the closing ceremony that obstruct the view of other medallists.

Other Business

J.P. thanked Ben for all his contributions to the IOI as his term on IC comes to an end. There was a long round of applause.

Answering a question from Indonesia, Sun Teck said that the length of IOI 2028 is not meant to be a precedent. He said he hopes to encourage countries to get the financial support needed to run an 8-day event but understands that it might sometimes need to be only 7 days long.

Bulgaria expressed thanks and excitement for IOI 2029.

Iceland repeated the United Kingdom's previous note about the results of the vote on Sun Teck's presidency highlighting that a majority of votes were for the motion. They expressed hope that Sun Teck will rethink his future communications.

Sun Teck thanked Iceland for the comments, does not have much more to say but will try to stick to reporting only facts.

Costa Rica spoke having attended their first IOI as an Invited Observer expressing gratitude to everyone for making them feel welcome.

Norway thanked Bolivia for hosting. A huge round of applause followed.

Continuing with this, Sun Teck said everyone enjoyed a nice week of hospitality. He said this happened because a lot of effort went into making it happen after it appeared like the event might not happen. He said things went well and thanked the Bolivian organizing team.

Jorge closed the final GA meeting thanking everyone for coming to Bolivia.