



Regulations of the 9th Benelux Mathematical Olympiad 2017

1. General

- 1.1 The 9th Benelux Mathematical Olympiad (BxMO 2017) will be held in Belgium, at the cultural center Marcel Hieter "La Marlagne" in Wépion-Namur, from May 5th–7th 2017.
- 1.2 Participation in the BxMO 2017 is by invitation only. The participating countries are Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Each invited country is entitled to send a team consisting of up to ten Contestants, a Leader and two Deputy Leaders to be known collectively as the Participants.
- 1.3 Contestants must not have formally enrolled at a university or any other equivalent post-secondary institution, and they must have been born on or after May 5th 1997.
- 1.4 The host country will cover all official expenses for the Participants, including accommodation in triple rooms, meals, transport between Namur Railway Station and the accommodation site, as well as other necessary transport between the accommodation site and other venues on the official Programme for all the Participants.
- 1.5 All Participants are responsible for obtaining full accident, health and travel insurance. It is the Leader's responsibility to confirm that this condition has been met for all Participants of his or her team.
- 1.6 In all situations not covered by the Regulations, the Organization of the BxMO 2017 decides.

2. Contest Regulations

- 2.1 The contest element of the BxMO 2017 (the "Contest") will take place in Wépion on May 6th 2017. The Contest will start in the morning and last for four and a half hours. The examination paper will consist of four problems.
- 2.2 Each Contestant must work independently and may submit solutions in his/her own language. The solutions must be written on specific and named answer forms provided by the Organization. Contestants must write on only one side of each answer form. Only elements written on the recto side will be considered for coordination, the rest will be discarded.
- 2.3 At the end of the Contest, each Contestant must put the solution sheets into respective colored folders (yellow, blue, green and red), sorted by problem, and all four solution folders into the large folder with their name. Only solution sheets present inside the colored folders will be considered for coordination, the rest will be discarded. The organization will not be responsible for any loss of sheets not present in the colored folders.
- 2.4 The only instruments permitted in the Contest will be writing and drawing instruments, such as pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers and compasses. In particular, calculators (including watches with built-in calculators), mobile phones, electronic devices, protractors, briefcases, backpacks, toys, books, notes, tables, papers or any other written material will not be allowed into the examination room.

- 2.5 The Leaders will consider written questions raised by Contestants during the first half hour of the Contest and decide on replies.
- 2.6 The (Deputy) Leaders, Coordinators, Organizers, members of the Problem Selection Committee any others who have any knowledge of the problems and solutions before the examinations must do their utmost to ensure that no Contestant has any information, direct or indirect, about any proposed problem.
- 2.7 The total number of medals that will be awarded will not exceed half the total number of Contestants, except if the final score distribution makes it a sensible decision. Among the medal winners the number of gold, silver and bronze medals will be in a proportion close to 1:2:3. The medal winners will not be announced until the award ceremony. The Chief Coordinator will take all the decisions concerning medals awarding, and will consult whomever he/she deems appropriate to help him/her in this process.
- 2.8 Each Contestant who has not received a medal will receive a Certificate of Honorable Mention if he/she has received seven points for the solution of at least one problem.
- 2.9 Any allegation or suspicion of a violation of the Regulations generally must be reported to the Chief Coordinator, who can decide to investigate further. In such a case, he must report its findings to the Leaders who must decide whether a violation has occurred and what sanction, if any, to apply. Possible sanctions include the disqualification of a Contestant.

3. Coordination

- 3.1 For each problem each Contestant will receive an integer score out of a maximum of seven points.
- 3.2 The Leaders approve the marking schemes for each problem. Initial proposals for marking schemes are prepared under the direction of the Chief Coordinator.
- 3.3 Prior to coordination, Contestants' solutions will be assessed by Leaders and Deputy Leaders in accordance with the marking schemes. For each country the Leader and both of the Deputy Leaders are expected to participate in the coordination.
- 3.4 Each coordination session will involve at least two Coordinators provided by the Organization and up to three (Deputy) Leaders of the relevant country. With the agreement of the Chief Coordinator, observers for the relevant country may also attend, but not take part in, the coordination session.
- 3.5 The Leader and the designated Coordinators should agree on the scores for each Contestant. These scores will be recorded on official forms and signed by the Leader and the Coordinators.
- 3.6 If the Leader and the Coordinators fail to agree on a score for a Contestant, the matter will first be referred to the Chief Coordinator. If the Leader and Chief Coordinator fail to agree on a score, the Chief Coordinator (with the assistance of other coordinators if he/she deems it appropriate) will report the matter to all the (Deputy) Leaders with a recommendation as to what the score should be, who will together determine the score. As a quick alternative to this last possibility, the Leader of the relevant country may agree to informally discuss the matter, in the presence of the Chief Coordinator, with all the other Leaders, and to accept the decision of a majority vote among the Leaders.