Regulations of the Central European Olympiad in Informatics

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Introduction

The Olympiad is organised by the Ministry of Education or another appropriate institution of one of the nine Central European countries.

According to the rules accepted by the initiators of the CEOI, teams of nine Central European country, i.e. Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia, are invited as regular participants. Moreover, the host country may invite guest participants as well.

The International Committee (IC) of the CEOI consists of the nine team leaders, and a representative of the host country, who chairs the meetings of the IC. A host which is willing to organise a CEOI in a given year in their country, has to announce their intent at least one year before that CEOI (during the previous CEOI competition days). Selection of the next host is made by the IC by a majority vote. Revision of the Regulations of the CEOI is adopted by the IC by a 2/3 majority vote. Enlarging or decreasing the set of CEOI countries can only be adopted by consensus.

1 Goals

The CEOI aims at motivating secondary school students of Central Europe to :

- get more interested in informatics and information technology in general,
- test and prove their competence in solving problems with the help of computers,
- exchange knowledge and experience with other students of similar interest and qualification,
- establish personal contacts with young people of the Central European region.

Additionally, the CEOI may :

- provide training for the students participating in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI),
- initiate discussion and co-operation in informatics education in the secondary schools of the Central European countries.

2 General Regulations

Each team is composed of up to four secondary school students, and a team leader and a deputy team leader. Only the cost of travel to and from the place of the competition should be paid by teams; all local expenses are covered by the organisers. Accompanying persons and observers are welcome, but they should pay for their stay. Interested people are advised to contact the local organisers.

The official language is English. Students may use their mother tongue. Programming problems will be formulated in English and then translated by the team leaders to the mother tongue of their team. Both versions will be given to the students. Team leaders must be able to speak and write in English, as well as the language of their team.

The computers will be IBM PC compatibles with selected software packages. Only the computers and software with built-in help facilities provided by the organisers may be used in the competition.

In particular, the use of printed materials will be forbidden. The programming languages of the contest are Pascal, C and C++; the precise versions of these languages will be updated each year. The compilers and programming environments for the above mentioned programming languages will be installed on the hard disk.

3　Team Composition

Students have to be in school during the year when the contest is held and at most 19 years old. The team leader will be a member of the General Assembly. Observers and persons accompanying a delegation have to pay a fee.

4　General Assembly

General Assembly (GA) is composed of the team leaders of the participating countries and the president nominated by the host country. General Assembly selects problems to be solved in the competition from a set of problems prepared and proposed by the Scientific Committee.

The selection procedure is the following:

1. The chairperson of the Scientific Committee distributes the proposals. Their number equals the number of problems to be solved by the contestants.

2. The GA members may either accept or, in case of a major ambiguity of formulation or other serious reasons, deny the proposals by voting. When and if a proposal is denied, another prepared proposal will be offered to the GA. For such cases, the Scientific Committee should prepare at least two extra proposals for each round. The text of the accepted proposals must not be changed by the GA, except for minor rephrasing that is needed to avoid smaller ambiguities.

3. The selected problems will be translated by the team leaders into the national languages of the teams.

5　Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee (SC) consists of a chairperson and a number of experts (SC members) from the host country. It becomes active well before the beginning of the Olympiad and has the task of selecting and preparing problem proposals.

A further task of the Scientific Committee is to test and evaluate the solutions of the contestants.

6　Problems, Competition

The competition consists of two rounds in two days. In both rounds the working time is five hours and the contestants will be given one to four problems to solve. The selected problems will be translated by the team leaders into the national languages of the teams.

Within the first hour the contestants may submit written questions (either in English or in their national language) to the Scientific Committee concerning the formulation and interpretation of the problems. Only questions that can be answered with 'Yes', 'No' or 'No comment' may be

accepted. The answers will be produced by the members of the Scientific Committee and approved by the chairperson of the SC as soon as possible.

When the competition ends, each contestant should prepare his/her solution for the evaluation, according to regulations issued by the organisers.

No special hardware requirement or software packages (e.g. graphic packages) will be needed to solve the problems. The whole communication between the CEOI authorities and contestants will be in a written form.

7   Evaluation

When the working time is over, the solutions of each of the contestant will be checked by an evaluator, using previously unpublished test data. The evaluation is based on the test data and the responses of the programs only.

The evaluation procedure concludes with the meeting of the Scientific Committee, where the evaluation reports are discussed. Potential disagreements are dissolved by voting. Achieving a proper and balanced evaluation is the responsibility of the Scientific Committee. If a team leader does not accept the results of the evaluation, he/she may appeal to the General Assembly.

Finally, the president of SC or IC presents the anonymous results to the General Assembly to take final decisions.

8   Results and Prizes

The General Assembly will determine the minimum scores for the gold, silver and bronze medals. The proportion of these gold, silver and bronze medals should be approximately 1:2:3. About 50% of the contestants should receive medals. Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation. The medals, certificates and other prizes will be given to the contestants at the official closing ceremony.

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