

The Regulations of the Austrian Young Physicists' Tournament

I. Austrian Young Physicists' Tournament

The Austrian Young Physicists' Tournament (AYPT) is a competition among teams of secondary school students in their ability to solve complicated scientific problems, to present solutions to these problems in a convincing form and to defend them in scientific discussions, called Rounds. It is carried out by the association "AYPT – Österreichische Physikmeisterschaft". The Organizing Committee for the AYPT is selected by the Executive Committee of the association.

II. The problems of the AYPT

The problems of the AYPT will be the same as for the IYPT (International Young Physicists' Tournament), in accordance with Article II of the Regulations of the International Young Physicists' Tournament

III. The participants of the AYPT

1. The Austrian teams

Any team composed of students enrolled in Austrian secondary schools is eligible for participation.

2. Foreign teams

The Organizing Committee may invite any number of foreign teams. Those teams compete in the same way as the others but they are not taken into account when compiling the Austrian National Team (see Section XIV).

3. The membership of the teams

The AYPT team is composed of three secondary school students. The secondary school graduates could participate in the AYPT in the year of their graduation. The participation of university students is not allowed. The composition of the team cannot be changed during the Tournament. The team is headed by a captain who is the official representative of the team.

4. Team Leader

The team is accompanied by a team leader.

IV. The Jury

The Jury is nominated and organized by the Organizing Committee. Team leaders may be included in the Jury. The team leaders cannot be members of the Jury in the Round where their teams participate and should not, if possible, grade the same team more than twice.

V. The agenda of the AYPT

The AYPT is carried out in a period determined by the Organizing Committee. All teams participate in the Selective Rounds. Selective Rounds are carried out according to a special schedule determined by the Organizing Committee according to the number of participating teams, following the rule that, if possible, no team meets another team more than twice. This schedule should be known before numbers are ascribed to the teams by lot. The best teams participate in the Final Round.

VI. The Round regulations

Three or four teams participate in a Round, depending on the total number of teams. In the course of a Round the members of a team communicate only with each other.

Before the beginning of a Round, the Jury and the teams are introduced.

The Round is carried out in three (or four) Stages. In each Stage, a team plays one of the three (four) roles: Reporter, Opponent, Reviewer (Observer). In the subsequent Stages of the Round, the teams change their roles according to the schemes:

<i>Three teams round</i>					<i>Four teams round</i>				
Stage	1	2	3		Stage	1	2	3	4
Team					Team				
1	Rep	Rev	Opp		1	Rep	Obs	Rev	Opp
2	Opp	Rep	Rev		2	Opp	Rep	Obs	Rev
3	Rev	Opp	Rep		3	Rev	Opp	Rep	Obs
					4	Obs	Rev	Opp	Rep

VII. The Stage regulations

The performance order in the Stage of a Round: Reserved time in minutes

The Opponent challenges the Reporter for the problem	1
Preparation of the Reporter.....	4
Presentation of the report	12
Questions of the Opponent to the Reporter and answers of the Reporter	2
Preparation of the Opponent.....	3
The Opponent takes the floor, maximum 4 min. and discussion between the Reporter and the Opponent.....	14
The Opponent summarizes the discussion.....	1
Questions of the Reviewer to the Reporter and the Opponent and answers to the questions	3
Preparation of the Reviewer	2
The Reviewer takes the floor	5
Concluding remarks of the Reporter	2
Questions of the Jury	5

In the Final Round the procedure of challenge is omitted.

The official language of the AYPT is English.

VIII. The teams performance in the Stages

The Reporter presents the essence of the solution to the problem, attracting the attention of the audience to the main physical ideas and conclusions.

The Opponent puts questions to the Reporter and criticizes the report, pointing to possible inaccuracy and errors in the understanding of the problem and in the solution. The Opponent analyses the advantages and drawbacks of both the solution and the presentation of the Reporter. The discussion of the Opponent should not become a presentation of his/her own solution. In the discussion, the solution presented by the Reporter is discussed.

The Reviewer presents a short estimation of the presentations of Reporter and Opponent.

The Observer does not participate actively in the Round.

During one Round only one member of a team takes the floor as Reporter, Opponent or Reviewer; other members of the team are allowed to make brief remarks or to help with the presentation technically. During the Final Round any team member can take the floor only once.

IX. The rules of problem-challenge and rejection

1. Preparation

Prior to the Tournament, each single participant prepares a report on one of the problems and publicly announces their choice during the opening ceremony. Thereby, the problem is assigned to the individual participant for the course of the Tournament. In the following, the chosen problem will be referred to as the participant's assigned problem. Within a team, no two team members may have the same assigned problem.

2. Selective Round

The Opponent may challenge the Reporter on any of the problems assigned to a member of the Reporter team that the Reporter team has not presented before. The team member whose assigned problem is challenged has to accept the challenge and act as Reporter in this stage.

If possible, the Opponent must challenge a problem which has not already been presented in the same Round.

3. Final Round

In the Final Round, teams choose which of their three assigned problems they wish to present again. All problems presented in the Final Round have to be different. In case teams choose the same problem, priority of selecting problems for the Final is determined by the TSP (see section XII), in case of equality by lot.

All teams hand in a prioritization of their assigned problems before they leave the room at the end of the last Selective Round. After the results of the Selective Rounds are known, the choice of the teams participating in the Final is published immediately.

X. The grading

After each stage the Jury grades the teams, taking into account all presentations of the members of the team, questions and answers to the questions, and participation in the discussion. Each Jury member shows integer marks from 1 to 10. The mean of the highest and the lowest marks is counted as one mark which is then added to the remaining marks. This sum is used to calculate the mean mark for the team. The mean marks are multiplied by various coefficients: 3.0 for the Reporter, 2.0 for the Opponent, 1.0 for the Reviewer and then transformed into points.

In the Final, grading is done in secret. Jurors write down their grades on the grading sheets, sign them, and give them to the Final's Tournament Assistants. The Chair asks the jurors of the highest and lowest grades to justify and explain their grades. This is done without mentioning the actual grade. The results are kept secret until they are officially announced during the award ceremony. After the announcement, all grading sheets and the detailed results are published online so that anyone can check the result.

XI. The resulting parameters

1. For a team in the Round

The sum of points (SP) is the sum of mean marks, multiplied by the corresponding coefficients and rounded to one decimal.

2. For a team in the Tournament

The total sum of points (TSP) equals the sum of SP of the team in all Selective Rounds.

XII. The Final

The three teams having the highest TSP in the Selective Rounds participate in the Final. In case teams have equal TSP, their participation in the Final is decided by which team won more Selective Rounds, in case of equality by lot.

If no Austrian team is placed in the top three after the selection rounds, the Austrian students with the best three individually ranked reports will form a new “Team Austria”. This team will participate in the final as if it were placed third after the final round.

The order of presentation in the Final is determined by position by entering the final: the higher the *position*, the higher the number in the scheme of section VI.

XIII. The final team ranking of the AYPT

The winner of the Final obtains the 1st place. If two or three teams have the same SP result in the final, the winner is nominated according to the highest TSP. The other two teams participating in the Final share the 2nd place. For teams not participating in the Final, the Organizing Committee decides, according to the TSP obtained, which teams will share the 3rd place.

XIV. Compiling the Austrian National Team

After the end of the AYPT the decision about the composition of the Austrian national team is made according to the procedure outlined in appendix A of the articles of association.

XV. The status of the regulations of the AYPT

The regulations are established by the Executive Committee of the association and may be changed only by the Executive Committee.