

## IOAA Circular #1

**Date:** 17 January 2025

**Subject:** First Official Circular for The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2025

Wishing everyone a prosperous and joyful New Year! We are pleased to announce the release of the first official circular for the IOAA 2025, marking the commencement of this exciting international event. Additionally, we are thrilled to inform you that the official 2025 website (<https://ioaa2025.in/>) has been launched, where you can find all event-related information and updates. We look forward to your active engagement and collaboration in the upcoming proceedings.

The circular below contains important details regarding timelines, eligibility, team composition, fees, and other relevant information. In accordance with established practice, the host country will provide all local hospitality, including accommodation and meals, for the entire duration of the event, for all registered teams.

### Important Dates

**Pre-registration opens:** 17 January 2025

**Pre-registration closes:** 1 March 2025

**Main Registration opens:** 25 March 2025

**Main Registration closes:** 15 May 2025

**Opening Ceremony of IOAA 2025:** 12 August 2025 – afternoon

**Closing Ceremony of IOAA 2025:** 21 August 2025 – morning

### Eligibility Criteria

#### 1. For Students

- Must have been born on or after 1 July 2005.
- Must not have completed high school (Grade 12 or equivalent) before 1 January 2025.
- Must be either a citizen or a regular resident of the country they represent in IOAA 2025.

## 2. Team Leaders / Observers

- Must be professional astronomers, amateur astronomers, university or school teachers, or past winners of national or international Olympiads. In summary, they should possess the capability to participate in academic discussions during the IOAA.
- Must be proficient in reading, writing, and conversing in English.
- New countries may consider participating without any students. In such a case, each member of the delegation will be considered as an *observer* (not team leader).

## 3. Visitors

- Visitors are those members of the delegation who do not meet the criteria for team leaders or observers.
- Typically, these include family members of team leaders or observers, ministry officials, parents of participating students, and similar individuals.

## Team Composition and Fees

### Main Team

- The main team consists of up to 5 students and up to 2 team leaders.
- A registration fee of EUR 600 is required to be paid for the entire main team.
- If the number of student participants is 3 or fewer, only one mentor may register as a team leader. In such cases, the registration fee for the main team will be calculated at EUR 125 per person.

### Observers

- Each observer is required to pay a registration fee of EUR 1600.

### Guest Team Participants / Leaders

- A guest team may consist of up to 5 students and at least one team leader.
- *Each member* of the guest team is required to pay a registration fee of EUR 1600.

### Visitors

- Each visitor is required to pay a registration fee of EUR 2000.
- For children under 12 years of age accompanying their parents, please contact the organisers separately.

### Exemptions and Waivers

- IOAA host countries between the years 2015-2024 are exempt from paying the registration fee for the main team.
- Teams participating for the first time in the IOAA are eligible to apply for a fee waiver. The host country will review all applications and award waivers to selected teams, as deemed appropriate.

### Inclusion of Guest Teams

- Please note that the inclusion of guest teams in IOAA 2025 is not guaranteed. If you wish to send a guest team, kindly indicate this in the pre-registration form. The final decision regarding the inclusion of guest teams will be made after reviewing the overall registration statistics, once pre-registration is closed.

### Pre-registration

- You can complete the pre-registration process through the following link:  
<https://ioaa2025.in/pre-registration-form/>
- The teams that participated in IOAA 2024 / IOAA 2023 / IOAA 2022 will get a separate email with login credentials for the pre-registration form.
  - All other countries, wanting to pre-register, should contact us by sending an email to [ioaa2025@hbcse.tifr.res.in](mailto:ioaa2025@hbcse.tifr.res.in).
- Please refer to the annex on the next page for notes regarding the pre-registration form.

Prof. Arnab Bhattacharya  
Chair, Local Organising Committee  
IOAA 2025

## Annex: Notes for Filling the Pre-Registration Form

### Section 1: Details of the Country/Team Coordinator

This person will receive all future circulars related to IOAA 2025 and is likely to serve as (but is not necessarily required to be) the team leader for IOAA 2025. Note that this individual may or may not be the same as the team leader from previous years.

### Section 2: Formal Invitation Letter Details

We will send a formal letter of invitation to the highest relevant authority in your country. This may be a Minister or Junior Minister or Head of a University or School or the Chair of the National Olympiad Committee. Please provide the details of the individual to whom the letter should be addressed.

If you want a copy of this email to be marked to another person, you can give the name and email address of this person in the "Remarks" field. E.g. In India, the formal letter of invitation will be sent to the Minister of Education with a copy marked to the In-charge of the National Olympiad Committee. *Note:* A copy of the Formal Invitation Letter will also be marked to the Country/Team Coordinator mentioned in Section 1.

### Section 3: Team Composition

Please indicate the number of members in your delegation for IOAA 2025, including students, leaders, observers, and visitors. Each category should be clearly specified.

If you wish to bring a guest team, please provide the composition for that as well. The final decision regarding the inclusion of guest teams will be communicated to you in March 2025.

### Section 4: Excursions

We are considering several excursion options for both students and mentors. It would be helpful if you could indicate which types of excursions would be of interest to your delegation members. We have listed different categories, and you are welcome to select as many options as you prefer.

If your delegation would like to visit other tourist destinations in India, kindly indicate so. We will connect you with a suitable travel agency to assist with planning your tour.