

Minutes of IPhO 2025

IPhO 2025 was attended by 87 participating teams, 415 students, 163 team leaders, and 98 observers. The event was held in Paris, France.

The teams attending were:

Argentina (G), Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana (O), Greece, Honduras (O), Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oly team of individuals 1 (Russia), Oly team of individuals 2 (Belarus), Pakistan, Peru (O), Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda (O), Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Chinese Taipei, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

In the above list, (O) means an observing team that did not compete, (G) means a guest team. Because of external restrictions, Russia and Belarus competed as Oly teams of individuals.

The opening IB meeting was held on July 18, 2025

Overview from President Rawat.

Announcing the three members of the International Board to oversee the marking scheme and grading:

- Jevgenij Chmeliov (LIT)
- Andrzej Kotlicki (CAN)
- Stefan Petersen (DEU)

to serve as the panel of three for appeals of moderation. The instruction for appeals is to send an email with appeals to all three members of the panel, with copies to the local board.

The short IB meeting was held on the morning of July 23, 2025 to discuss the metal cutoffs.

The medal thresholds were announced as

31.1	Gold
22.9	Silver
15.3	Bronze
11.3	Honorable Mention

There was some discussion in Theory C3 & C4 regarding a potential ambiguity in the question. The conclusion was that the problem was sound, and any papers that appeared to have problems with the ambiguities would be marked based on consistency within the student's work.

The regular IB meeting was held on July 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 21:12 pm by President Rajdeep Singh Rawat.

There were only four orders of business:

1. Presentation from Colombia for IPhO 2026
2. Information about the hosting by Hungary in 2027
3. Countries requesting to host a future Olympiad
4. Acceptance of the final marks from IPhO 2025

Video Presentation from France, welcoming us to IPhO 2026, with dates 17-25 July 2026

The news that Hungary would be unable to host the IPhO in 2027 was shared.

As such, the next countries scheduled to host the IPhO are currently:

Columbia (2026)
Open (2027)
Republic of Korea (2028)
Ecuador (2029)
Russian Federation (2030)

President Rawat shared the results after moderation:

Gold 37
Silver 81
Bronze 96
HM 71

Best female: Aysenem Kakamyradova TKM

Best experiment: Stan Ionut-Gabriel ROU

Best theory: Tong Pengyu CHN

Best overall: Lee Hyeokjoon

Diversity Commendation (Best score for 2F+2M) Turkmenistan

Parabolic Flight Prize (best Score in EU): Stan Ionut-Gabriel ROU

On the vote to approve the results of the IPhO, 130 approve, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions; motion passes.

New business:

Discussion on 2030 IPhO Host (Russia)

- **Background:** Ukraine raised concerns about last year's vote awarding Russia the 2030 IPhO. Georgia had also submitted a letter (Aug) requesting reconsideration.
- **Procedural Note (Rajdeep):** A vote is required to reopen discussion on Russia's 2030 hosting.
 - Vote to reconsider: **69 Yes, 54 No, 6 Abstain → Passed.**
- **Key Points Raised by Leaders:**
 - Original vote occurred with fewer than half of leaders of IB present.
 - Unsafe to host in countries with ongoing military conflict; Ukraine ready to host.
 - Surprised Russia's proposal was approved; concerned about low attendance at prior vote.
 - Asked why Russia is not a regular member; statutes explained.
 - Russia's delegation lacks regular status due to host country restrictions.
 - Debate over whether Russia should be allowed to address the board.
 - Opposed to Russian representatives speaking.
 - Not properly informed previously of the decision to have Russia host in 2030; requested straw poll.
 - Asked about voting thresholds to select hosts; clarified majority vote suffices.
 - **Responses from President and Secretary:** the Statutes define the IB as an annual structure, so, by definition, all of the member of the IB were present in Iran; concerns about safety are important, and welcome additional countries to formally propose to host; at no time has Russia, or Belarus, been restricted from being full participants by the IB or by the Statutes, the status as observer is a compromise with the local host country and their policies; the minutes showing the decision had been posted; the secretary reiterated that a call for proposals would be sent out in November with a December 15 deadline; the president reiterated that the process is important so that the advisory board has an opportunity to carefully consider the proposal and give feedback to help the proposer, and the IB, to make good decisions.
- **Straw Poll (non-binding):**
 - Would you participate in IPhO 2030 in Russia?
 - **Yes:** 44
 - **No:** 50
 - **Not sure:** 38
- **General Sentiment:**
 - Several countries emphasized the issue has become overly political and divisive.
 - Canada proposed postponing decision to next year, with structured proposals and advisory input.
 - Iran supported postponement.
- **Conclusion (Rajdeep):** Discussion closed for now; matter may be revisited with proper proposals in the future.

Andrzej (Canada) thanks to IPhO France committee for a marking, and exam, about the best ever.

Hosts showed the backup problem on Strongly Correlated Fermionic Matter.

The meeting was then adjourned.