INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMICS OLYMPIAD

ANNUAL REGULATIONS 2026



This document was updated with more precise details on 14/04/2026.

1. General

1.1. The Host Country of the Ninth International Economics Olympiad is **China**. The IEO will take place in the city of **Shenzhen**.

1.2. The Host Organization of the Ninth International Economics Olympiad is the NexGen Education Hub Limited (**NexGen)**.

1.3. Key timeline: Accommodation booking will open in late-April,, when detailed options and exact prices will be provided. The booking will close on May 31, 2026. Information about participants (Contestants, Team Leaders, potentially Observers) must be submitted by May 31, 2026.

1.4. Participation Format. IEO 2026 is primarily an on-site competition. Teams are strongly encouraged to attend in person in Shenzhen.

1.4.1. Online participation may be authorized by the Executive Board (EB) upon a motivated request from the Sending Organization. EB approval is case-by-case and may include reasonable conditions to preserve fairness and exam integrity.

1.4.2. Online participation may be approved only in the following cases:
(i) The team represents a country/territory that has never participated in the IEO.
(ii) Travel to China is impossible for 2 or more selected contestants and/or all team leaders due to verified force-majeure circumstances (e.g., natural disaster, extreme weather, armed conflict, political instability, security risks).
(iii) Travel to China is impossible for 2 or more selected contestants and/or all team leaders due to visa denial or other documented political/diplomatic constraints.

(iv) The Sending Organization faces unexpected, documented financial hardship.

In all cases, “documented” or “verified” means that the Sending Organization provides reasonable evidence (e.g., official notices, embassy correspondence, bank letters, insurer/government declarations, etc.).

1.4.3. If online participation is approved for a team, all members of that team must compete in the same format (no hybrid teams).

1.4.4. If online participation is approved for a team, all members of that team must be present in the same room during proctored exams (single-room proctoring).

2. Dates

2.1. The IEO will take place between **July 12 and July 20, 2026.**

2.2. All tests and academic sessions of IEO 2026 will be scheduled during the daytime hours of China Standard Time (UTC+8).

2.3. The tentative agenda of the IEO 2026 is as follows. Planned additions to the program include a Meet with the Jury session and a half-day Educator Forum, both of which will be available exclusively to in-person participants.

Date	Activities
July 12th	Arrivals
July 13th	Opening Ceremony
July 14th	Economics and Finance Tests
July 15th	Cultural Activities
July 16th	Business Case Preparation
July 17th	Business Case Presentations
July 18th	Moderation
July 19th	Educator Forum and Closing Ceremony
July 20th	Departure

2.4. All Contestants, Team Leaders, and Observers who will participate in-person are expected to arrive at the venue on July 12 and leave the venue on July 20. Early or late arrivals are possible and should be discussed with the Steering Committee in advance, but no later than **three weeks** prior to the beginning of the IEO 2026.

3. Application and Registration

3.1. Applying as a team means that an applicant agrees with the IEO Articles, IEO Regulations of Competition, and these IEO 2026 Annual Regulations, guarantees to organize Contestants' selection process and support the team (including finding means to support the teams' transportation to and stay in Shenzhen), to find and appoint Team Leader(s).

3.2. Applications are reviewed by the IEO Executive Board according to the IEO Regulations of Competition and Application Guideline.

3.3. All applications should be sent to the email address of the IEO Central Office: info@ieo-official.org. The Central Office confirms the receipt of the application within two working days (this is **not** the approval of the application). The application form should be filled out according to the IEO Application Guideline.

3.4. The 1-year participation application process has three stages: preliminary application (deadline: October 31, 2025), early-bird application (deadline: January 31, 2026) and late applications (deadline: April 30, 2026). The Sending Organizations may apply at any stage.

3.5. The names and details of the Contestants and Team Leaders should be provided to the Steering Committee no later than May 31, 2026 by filling in the form distributed by the Central Office. All changes after this date are possible only upon the Steering Committee's approval. If Contestants and Team Leaders need to apply for a visa to the Host Country, the Central Office, on behalf of the Steering Committee, may request their details earlier in order to comply with visa requirements.

3.6. Each Contestant should bring to the IEO the document (passport and/or national ID card) confirming that they are eligible to participate. Prior to the IEO, the Sending Organization is responsible for making sure that their Contestants fit the eligibility criteria: i.e., they were born after June 30, 2006; and have been working toward receiving a high school diploma or a similar degree as of December 1, 2025.

4. Fees

4.1. Voluntary membership donation. A Sending Organization is encouraged to make a membership donation to support the IEO's long-term development, including the main competition and open projects, thereby strengthening the IEO's ongoing impact. The recommended minimum is USD 500 per team. The specific way and form of payment will be confirmed with the Central Office on an individual basis for every Sending Organization willing to make a donation.

4.2 The accommodation fees apply equally to both Team Leaders and Contestants. THotel accommodation will cost around 450-500 USD per person for the whole stay, based on double occupancy (two participants sharing one room) while a single-occupancy room with a king-size bed is at 700-750 USD per person. We can currently accept a maximum of 5 room reservations, with a limit of 3 twin rooms available for booking. To ensure the smooth organization of the competition and the safety of all participants upon arrival in China, we require that all bookings be made through the Host Organization. After May 31, the IEO Steering Committee cannot guarantee availability of accommodation near the Venue. In such cases, alternative options may be arranged, subject to availability.

4.3 Each team must select one accommodation option for all members; mixed arrangements will not be allowed.

4.4 Catering / food expenses: Contestants and Team Leaders attending the IEO 2026 will be responsible for their own catering / food expenses..The host will provide a welcome dinner and two lunches; for all other meals, please make your own arrangements, as Shenzhen offers a diverse range of global cuisines to choose from. The approximate cost per meal is 4-6 USD with total meal expenses estimated at 100-150 USD per person for the whole stay.

4.5 Airport transfers from and to the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport are provided with no additional fees involved after accommodation booking.

4.6 For teams participating in person, the Sending Organizations are expected to make their best efforts to secure sufficient funding to cover expenses such as airfare, visa fees, accommodation, and meals.

4.7 The Host Organization will cover the following expenses: venue and setup costs, Steering Committee remuneration, Welcome Dinner and Farewell Party, 2 lunches, social and cultural programs including transportation, all exam-related processes, merchandise and awards, marketing and design expenses, as well as approved travel expenses for selected Jury, CO and EB members as well as VIP guests.

4.8 If an Observer or Visitor wishes to attend a part of the IEO 2026 program, they must discuss the participation fee with the Steering Committee.

4.9 The refund policy for in-person participation will be determined and implemented by the Steering Committee, by May 31, 2026. The IEO Central Office will not be involved in processing refunds for cancellations of in-person attendance.

5. Visa and Invitation Letters

5.1. Once participant details are submitted to the IEO 2026 Steering Committee, an official invitation letter will be sent to the participants.

5.2. The Steering Committee will ensure its best efforts to support the visa process for in-person participants who will require visas for their visit.

6. Legal Liability

6.1. The Steering Committee will ensure proper security mechanisms are in place, and that the Contestants are informed of the rules and regulations of the venue and the Olympiad.

6.2. In case any adverse event happens upon a Contestant, Observer, or Team Leader due to a cause that was not under the IEO's responsibility, the Steering Committee does not accept any legal responsibility.

6.3. Accordingly, the Steering Committee will provide support to the best of their abilities during emergencies.

6.4. For minors (younger than 18 y.o.) participating in the IEO, legal guardians should sign a disclaimer of liability denoting that they understand the risks associated. In these cases, Team Leaders hold the responsibility for Contestants in their teams.