

FAQ - DRAFT

Last update 9/28

A. Schedule Questions

When is the Invitational?

The Invitational will be held online starting at 4:00 PM (16:00) Moscow time (GMT + 3) on September 30. There will be an opening ceremony starting 30 minutes prior to the contest. The Zoom webinar link can be found on the main page. Closing comments will be broadcast approximately 5 minutes after the conclusion of the Invitational using the same Zoom link. You will receive a new team login and password about 2 hours prior to the start of the Invitational. Please watch your email for this important information.

Is it the same length as the World Finals Championship in Moscow?

Yes. 5 hours, with the scoreboard frozen during the last hour.

What is the schedule of events?

The schedule is available on this site from the main page.

Roughly, the schedule is:

September 15 : Team pictures due to Lidia lidia@icpc.global

September 20 - 27 : Team Preparation Week

September 30 : ICPC World Finals Invitational Contest

October 1, 2021 : Coach Attestation Form due

October 5, 2021 : ICPC World Finals Moscow Events

Why isn't it at the same time as the WF in Moscow?

The invitational is held earlier than the Championship in Moscow to give the judges time to review the proctoring videos which will allow your performance to be recognized at the Award Ceremony of the WF in Moscow on October 5. The date was also selected to avoid potential religious conflicts (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) and national holidays.

B. System Questions

Will each contestant have his or her own computer?

Yes. Your team may be together in the same room (preferred) or you may be distributed, but either way, each contestant has his or her own computer.

Does the university provide the computers or may we use our own machines?

As stated in the rules, the university may provide the team with machines roughly equivalent to the equipment in use in Moscow. However, that is not required. Contestants are allowed to use their own computers in the competition - that is a decision for your coach.

What system will we use?

Codeforces will be the contest control system for the Invitational. You will want to test your login and become familiar with the interface prior to the competition.

Who do we contact if we have problems with Codeforces or with my account?

Start with <https://codeforces.com/help>. There are many helpful hints there. If you need more help, contact invitational@icpc.global.

Do we have to install the World Finals system image?

No, that is optional. You can use whatever OS, IDEs and text editors you wish. No pre-written code is allowed.

If I want to use the WF image, where do I get it and can I get technical assistance?

The World Finals image is available at:

<https://pc2.ecs.baylor.edu/wfImageBuilds/icpc2020/ImageBuildInstructions.html>

To what extent are contestants allowed to customize their IDE? Is the main red line that the IDE opens a blank document (with no template code)? Are students allowed to install and use software tools that are not explicitly mentioned in the Programming Environment (debuggers, profilers, etc.) or IDE plugins that provide this functionality?

We want the contest to be as accessible as possible while keeping things as fair as possible. Since the World Finals image includes JetBrains tools (IntelliJ, PyCharm, CLion) as well as Eclipse, and those IDEs have some code templates, autocomplete, debugging and profiling ability, we feel that any tools a team uses that provides similar behavior is fine. Preparing electronic source code templates in advance is not in the spirit of what we want to allow.

You recommended Open Broadcast System for desktop video capture. Are other options allowed?

You may use any recording tool you see fit provided it captures the necessary video so things can be clearly viewed and generates an mp4 file. If you cannot generate mp4, please contact us to be sure the format you want to use is acceptable.

Is there someone who can answer questions about Open Broadcasting System?

Lidia Perovskaya has generously volunteered to answer questions about OBS
<lidia@icpc.global>

What languages will be available to use on Codeforces?

The same languages will be available for the Invitational as will be available for the Championship in Moscow: Java, C, C++, Kotlin and Python. There is no guarantee that the compiler versions will be identical to those installed on the contest machines in Moscow.

Will it be the same problem set?

No. The problem set is created specifically for the Invitational.

Does the Team Reference Document need to be submitted to the ICPC System?

Yes. The TRD is due by September 27. More details on the TRD can be found at <https://icpc.global/worldfinals/on-site-registration>

Where do we upload the Team Reference Document?

Login to your ICPC account and go to your dashboard. Click on your 2020 World Finals Team Record and upload your TRD as an attachment, by clicking on the paperclip icon at the top (attachments), right-hand corner of the page. Drag and drop into the dotted-lined box on the left.



Are we allowed electronic copies of the TRD during the contest?

No. Each member of the team may have one printed copy of the TRD. Contestants may not copy pre-written code from any source during the contest.

Does the coach need to print the TRD for the team?

No. A previous email indicated the coach needed to print immediately before the contest and give copies to the team to ensure that each team member was working from an unannotated copy of the same file. We have relaxed this requirement due to the number of teams where the contestants will be at three different sites. Each team member is responsible for obtaining a printed copy of the TRD that was submitted to ICPC. Additional annotations on the copy are not allowed. The TRD is the only printed material available to the contestants during the contest.

Do we need to do anything to prove the team reference documents on our hands are the same with the one we uploaded?

Regarding the TRD we are trusting the coach or institutional representative to ensure the same version is used for upload and distribution to team members.

Are we allowed to use off-line (not through the internet) translation software to help us understand the problem statements?

Yes.

How do I get help during the contest?

- All questions from contestants must be submitted through the clarification system available in Codeforces. Be sure to test that feature during the practice contest available during Team Preparation Week.
- If the proctor or technical support team needs to contact someone during the contest, they should do so using Telegram: 7 981 862 8239 or 1.509.869.6573

C. Proctoring Questions

How will the contest be proctored?

The three main components of the proctoring system are:

1. video of the team work area
2. screen capture of the entire desktop on each of the team workstations
3. an attestation form to be completed at the conclusion of the contest verifying that the team followed all ICPC rules.

Note: If your team is not competing in a single location, these requirements must be met at each site.

Coaches have received instructions about the proctoring requirements in an email which is available on this website under Announcements (on the main page). **Please do not send video files to invitational@icpc.global. Please send a link to the videos.**

Details of the proctoring requirement are in the World Finals Rules:

<https://icpc.global/worldfinals/rules>

Does my camera have to be on while I proctor a contestant at another location?

No. It is sufficient that you can see the contestant and the contestant's work area. The contestant doesn't need to see you (and will probably be happier if they can't!)

Can the coach and institutional representative be the same person?

No. The institutional representative must be a separate person. ICPC wants to ensure the integrity of the contest proceedings. With only a coach representing the team, there is a possible conflict of interest. For this reason another faculty member, staff member, or administrator from the school is also needed. While this may seem excessive, ICPC wants to make sure everyone involved with the contest understands it was done to the highest level of integrity possible given our circumstances.

Does the coach have to be in the room with the contestants?

No. Some teams will have contestants in three different locations. In such cases, the coach may proctor through an online video call. The rules state: "Proctoring may be by recorded video"

Is the coach allowed to be in the same room as the team?

Yes. The coach and institutional representative are serving as proctors so they are allowed in the team area. The team area video must show that neither the coach nor the institutional representative interact with the team during the contest.

Is the institutional representative required to be present, in real-time, for the entire five-hour duration of the contest?

If at all possible, the institutional representative should either be in the room or observing online during the contest. In the few situations where it is not possible, the institutional representative is allowed to review the recordings after the contest and make an attestation based on the recordings.

Is it allowed to ask multiple institutional representatives to cover different parts of the five-hour contest?

Yes. We understand it may be difficult to get someone there for the full 5 hours. Each will complete an attestation form.

Does the institutional representative have to be present for the practice contest?

No. As long as the coach and the team have everything they need to test the proctoring and the contest control system, no one else needs to be present for the practice contest.

Are we allowed to have another computer in the team room if it is just doing the video capture of the room?

Yes, as long as the team does not have access to it.

Are we allowed to use the internet during the contest?

The sole use of Internet access is to access the on-line competition and to communicate with your teammates. It is the responsibility of the university to demonstrate, through video evidence and written verification, that the teams complied with this requirement.

Are we allowed to share files between team members?

Yes. You have already identified a team communication mechanism and it is likely that you can share files through it (Discord etc.).

Are we allowed to use a physical whiteboard or electronic whiteboard like Jamboard during the contest?

Yes, both are allowed.

What resources are we allowed to use during the contest?

You are allowed to have:

- One computer with one monitor
- A 25 page Team Reference Document as described in [On-Site Registration Instructions](#) (a maximum of 3 copies of the same document, one copy per contestant)
- Each team member may bring an unannotated natural language printed dictionary
- Office supplies as needed: pens, pencils, blank paper, graph paper, rulers, protractor, dice
- Water/beverages and snacks
- small totems as permitted by the proctor

What you may not bring:

- any printed materials or machine-readable versions of software or data
- additional computers, computer monitors, calculators, or other electronic devices

Contestants are not to converse with anyone except members of their team and personnel designated by the proctor. Systems support staff may advise contestants on system-related problems such as explaining system error messages.

To emphasize the point: team members may not use the internet except as defined above or contact anyone other than their teammates.

We cannot use the same venue for the practice contest and the Invitational. Should I still submit video?

Yes. As long as you were able to get a clear recording of things during practice and are thus able to do the same thing for the Invitational at a different venue, there is no problem. Just to state the obvious, the practice is so you can get your hardware and software figured out for recording and test it successfully. As long as you can do this for the practice, the change in venue for the Invitational will hopefully not prove a hindrance to fulfilling the recording requirements.

D. General Questions

Will there be prizes?

Teams are ranked by honors: High Honors (top 25%), Honors (next 25%), and Honorable Mention (remaining teams solving problems). Teams meeting all qualifications and certified by their university representative will be eligible for awards. Awards may include medals as determined by the Judges.

How long do we have to complete the practice contest?

The practice contest is an opportunity to test Codeforces, your team communication mechanism, and your proctoring setup. You have until 11:59 on 9/27 to complete everything.

Do all three team members have to compete in the Invitational?

A team may compete with fewer team members.

Can my team substitute someone who qualified for the Invitational but is not available to compete?

All teams must compete solely with the team members registered to compete in the Invitational.

We have not gotten our Codeforces login and password yet. Help!

First, check spam. Some teams have had problems with the email going to their spam folders. If that doesn't work, notify Lidia Perovskaya <lidia@icpc.global> and she will help you get set up.

Can we go to the bathroom during the contest?

YES, of course. Your coach or institutional representative should indicate on the video that you have his or her permission to leave the room to use the bathroom. For toilet breaks the coach or institutional representative needs to vouch that the contestant took a bathroom break and the time away was reasonable. Note that you do not have to go with the contestant to the toilet.

Who is responsible for telling us DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING?

John Clevenger will be with you in spirit. So, DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING at the team workstations until so directed by the designated proctor.