



International Physicists' Tournament

Decision Assembly 2024

Minutes

Present:

Execom: Anastasiia Vasylychenkova (+ UK rep), Alberto Rolandi, Kyrylo Gerashchenko, Matheus Pessoa (+ Canada rep), Vladimir Vanovsky (+ Russia rep), Matheu Suter (+ Swiss rep), Joachim Hermansen, Aakash Bhat (+ Germany rep), Rosty Martinez Duque (+US rep), Christos Andrikopoulos (+ Greece rep), Nikolay Lysenko, Maja Milas.

IOC: Peter Christian Kjærgaard Vesborg (Denmark), Anastasiia Haieva (Ukraine - delegate), Arnaud Raoux (France - resigning, online 1st session, in person 2nd session), Jeanne Bernard (France - elect, 2nd session only), Åke Andersson (Sweden), Maria Carolina França Volpato (Brazil, online), Dina Izadi (Iran, online), Zakhar Maiselis (Ukraine, online), Francesco Gucci (Italy - delegate), Andrew Whittington (UK - delegate), Javier García Fernández (Spain), Nino Kovačić (Croatia - delegate).

Guests: Mairi Sakellariadou (EPS president, 2nd session only).

Minute taker: Maja Milas

1st session - 2nd April 2024

1. IAPS

Anastasiia sums up what happened with IAPS: the IAPS general meeting body voted in August 2023 on breaking the partnership with the IPT and against any Memorandum of Understanding with the IPT. Reflecting back on what was the IAPS representative impression of last year's IPT, meeting with IOCs. The expectations about having all IPT participants to be IAPS members was not fulfilled. The IAPS requested back the EUR 2500 contribution to the budget of IPT 2023. Alberto consulted with the lawyer, who helped build a response letter to the IAPS on this request - we find their request invalid. The lesson is taken to not engage in the closer partnership with the communities which do not clearly share IPT's values of better physics education.



2. EPS

The EPS president will be coming to the semifinals and finals - she is quite interested in the IPT and will give a talk at the closing ceremony. EPS secretary Anne Pawsey was mediating the break up with the IAPS - but she was affiliated with the IAPS before. She then explained the procedural rules for the IPT to stay registered. We sent the IPT documents to her in August 2023 and did not hear back after that. Aakash was at the EPS Forum in Berlin - flagship event for the EPS. The impression was that the event is quite oriented towards the Young Minds community, with very few networking options.

3. DA members voting rights according to statute

Voting rights only if they participated in the preselection this year or the past two editions. Alberto proposed a workaround to agree that the IOC with voting rights will vote the same way as all IOC. Vova asked about voting for problems list and how these rules apply to it.

4. Feedback - moderator role

Christos points out the Moderator role is confusing to the teams, some juror think the moderator should be a new chair. Krzysztof & Mathieu propose more juror training, chairs will give a speech before the first fight.

Anastasiia: the points suggested by the Moderator for the discussion should be clearly justified.

Vova says the role is not specified well and very hard for the judges. Wants to reintroduce a few characteristics of the old Reviewer role.

5. Feedback - other topics

Krzysztof supports the jury sheets 😊

Matheus suggests doing the grading together so we 'learn how to grade'

Nikolay comments the rule 2.8.2 (weights for points) - the teams didn't know how to check their exact points (not transparent), was feedback from teams.

6. Preselection for the IPT 2024

Alberto sums up what happened with the preselection. It didn't happen this year, but we tried to implement the two-round format. There were multiple complaints about timing (exams, ...), two rounds required triple the amount of time (...other constraints). Possible solutions - removing the 2-round format, reducing the number of teams that have to go through preselection (we can make it a percentage).

Aakash proposes to release the preselection problems a long time before the final list, but this complicates things because of voting... (students also start working usually around September).

Vova proposes having national selection instead of preselection (and make some generous selection criteria).

Discussion about moving the date of the tournament - limitations from the host.



7. Interaction with the IYPhT

We invited the IYPhT executive committee to be guests at the IPT 2024 - no one came. We have an invitation from the IYPT organising committee to be jurors. They initially wanted us to register as first-time jurors with 500 EUR registration fee. We agreed that they want us to nominate 3 IPT experienced jurors. BUT they don't pay for travel to Budapest, Hungary. Mathieu questions if it makes sense to go to them at all, do we want to invite high-school students to the IPT once they are at uni? Vova says we're gonna have better teams this way, Kyrylo supports and says we'll have more teams per country.

2nd session - 6th April 2024

1. Discussion with Mairi about the EPS

The main unit under the EPS for young people - the Young minds (3 groups: bachelor/master, phd, postdoc). They are dynamic and active, running scientific events, job market for people in physics (networking events).

Suggested collaboration routes - more logical as a part of the Young Minds, but may be something else.

Anastasiia: Can we convert skills and experiences IPT provides into more conventional things?

Krzysztof: IPT position paper - adapt IPT to the university criteria and implement IPT based activities in university curriculum - proposal and IPT vision for universities.

Arnaud: We should write letters to universities to support this idea.

2. Grading weights

The decision last year was to discard the grades symmetrically. This year, because of one juror being late we had - not equal number of jurors in different rooms. This introduces bias.

Ake, Anastasiia H., Vova are for symmetric system (more fairness, unshifted judges).

Joachim - less participants are unhappy with the asymmetric (5-6 ppl agree).

Arnaud - current grading is too complicated, can we just have a simple formula like "discard lowest and highest" and that is it.

Anastasiia H. - we have to be careful and make sure we support the jurors to use the whole scale, otherwise the teams become indistinguishable.

Vova - when cutting too much grades you lose the information.

Voting:

Do we keep the same grading system? – 9 yes, 5 no, 0 abstaining

Do we ask the participants about their opinion on the grading system?



3. Semifinals

Why does one team go straight to semi-final, do we want that, maybe 3 semis?

Vova – it should be dependent on the number of teams. Also, more teams will be engaged longer in the tournament.

Kyrylo – what if it means we include weaker teams and the fights don't make much sense (not all teams can make it to the finals).

Anastasiia - I put together historic data on Discord, something could change.

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zJifKWxjJMTNRPvu6CdOXOX2i9vMI05unkwkcexNvTk/edit>)

Krzysztof – all of the first 10-15 teams are very good, they can all compete for the finals.

Maja – teams can compete for other places, 5th, 6th, it also matters for them.

Anastasiia H. – we can make one more draw for the semifinals to avoid stronger teams playing against much weaker teams.

Alberto – we should keep the distribution of stronger and weaker teams as it is (otherwise stronger teams will earn points on each other).

Voting:

Having three semi-finals including the 1st team (only if we have 18+ teams)? 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Preliminary distribution, suggested by Ake – (167), (258), (349) - three rooms for semifinals. The logic of the distribution is that the teams should always aim to get higher. If this rule applies, 9 teams qualify already, without preselection.

Subtopic here: resetting points + variants in the semifinals.

Now – 4 PFs, bonus points, semi-final (0-2-4 bonus points, we don't reset the points), final (we reset the points)

Alberto, option: doubling completely the points of that semifinals fight.

Ake – against multiplication and weights because you do not choose problem for the semi-final, why discredit your previous fights

Voting:

Changing bonus points for the semis? 2 yes, 9 no, 3 abstain

Resetting points in the semifinal? 1 yes, 12 no, 1 abstain

4. Registration deadlines

Alberto: The complications because of the non-existent IOC in India, the teams were contacting us randomly and wanted to participate. Proposes having different deadlines for non IOC countries (non-IOC deadline has to be before IOC deadline). We can add it as a new rule!

5. IYPT



We have an offer for 3 ('first-time') jurors to come to IYPT in Budapest. It is an offer to go there and spread the word a bit about IPT. Want to go: Anastasiia H., Mathieu

6. Confirmed list of the Decision Assembly - national representatives

All countries participated this year or last two years, including the preselection, can vote at the Decision Assembly.

There is no limitation to other national reps to take part in the meetings.

List:

Note that the website is completely outdated.

7. Confirmed list of the execom members

8. IPT apolitical?

Vova: We have a link on the website to donate to the Ukraine military, recommends we remove politically charged things from the website. Proposes we don't put any messages like that before voting. We should add the statement from EPS society website (it is approved by Ukrainian government, but I think we should be apolitical)
Kyrylo: this is the formulation to which we agreed 1 year ago, it is not explicitly military.

Alberto: We should then at the same time care about other wars, it complicates thing... Aakash and Ake supports (but says that we can decide based on the teams participating).

Anastasiia H.: Wants to raise again the question of excluding the Russian participants. Also, wants to make obvious trades about the teams that are included in a war.

Christos: We should then also consider team Iran.

Krzysztof: Polish team wouldn't be able to come if there was no this message, we can leave it as a trademark. He suggest the president makes this kind of decisions. (Arnaud proposes this is moved to the secretary)

Vova: Not the problem with the message but with the link that was not discussed inside execom.

Anastasiia: We could issue a statement from IPT about the war so it is not a bunch of individual opinions.

Kyrylo: ... also against letting team IPT compete, this was a way to do something good.

Voting:

Assign the IPT President (Anastasiia) for the other political situations of the IPT? 10 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain.

Assign the IPT Secretary (Alberto) the task of resolving the IPT statement about the situation in Ukraine (until the next IOC meeting)? 11 yes, 0, no, 3 abstain.

9. Bank account



When the documents pass through the EPS, we will be able to open a bank account.
We will need to nominate someone from the IPT as a formal representative.

It has to be a Decision assembly decision because of the French law for opening accounts for non-profit associations.

Question - does it have to be in Alsace or can be anywhere in France?

Voting:

Nominate Jeanne Bernard to open the bank account for the IPT?

14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Nominate Kyrylo Gerashchenko to open the bank account for the IPT?

14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Acronyms used: IPT - International Physicists Tournament, DA - Decision Assembly, IOC - International Organising Committee, IAPS - International Association of Physics Students, EPS - European Physics Society, IYPhT - International Young Physicists' Tournament.

Minutes are correct, contain 6 pages, two sessions

Anastasiia Vasylichenkova, IPT President

Alberto Rolandi, IPT Secretary