


1 Contestant Accommodation

- The contestants will stay in a hotel in a small town north-east of Katowice (about 30 mins from airport). most rooms in the hotel are double occupancy, with a few triple occupancy rooms. Total capacity of the hotel is about 400 guests.
 - Rooms are clean and spacious. Each room has an attached bathroom. Most rooms also have a balcony.
 - Students will not be permitted to leave the hotel premises, unless accompanied by a team guide. If students wish to go to local supermarket (about 15-20 mins walk) or just go for a walk in woods, they have to check availability and willingness of their team guides first.
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- The hotel has one outdoor and one indoor swimming pool with water slides. The pools are just 1.4 metres deep (at their deepest point). This means, most students can stand in water with their heads above waterline. In addition, the hotel has life guards on duty during the day. However, students are advised to use their own judgement about using the pools.
 - Some students may have a fear of water bodies. All students should be advised not to take any student to swimming pool without their consent.
 - It is possible to do sky observation / astrophotography from the hotel grounds.
 - Like every year, the WiFi access in the student hotel will be restricted and students should not keep any communication devices with them for the period of 11th August (morning) to 17th August (evening). If a student is found in possession of phone / laptop / tablet or any other communication device, the entire team may be disqualified from the competition.
 - **Important:** Organisers have received requests from multiple parents of participants that they would like to stay in the students' hotel during the competition. This is strictly NOT allowed. If a student comes in contact with any unauthorised person, the matter will be reported to the International Board (IB). The IB can recommend strict action even including disqualification of the entire team, depending on the nature of breach.
 - The best chance for students to exchange currency would be at the airport at the time of their arrival. At the same time, cashless payments are very widely accepted in Poland, using contactless and chip-and-pin cards.
 - There will be a doctor / nurse available on call throughout the Olympiad.

2 Leader Accommodation

- The resort is located in a small town (Wisła) about 1-1.5 hours south-west of Katowice. The resort is on a hilltop and the town is in a valley.
- Rooms are clean and spacious. Each room has a balcony with spectacular views.
- The resort has recreational facilities including spa, gaming room and multiple swimming pools.
- The arrangements for meetings, copying, grading etc. are excellent. There is space for sky observation / astrophotography.
- There is fast WiFi access throughout the resort.



3 Examination Venues and Arrangements

3.1 Theory and Data Analysis

- The examinations will be held at the Katowice International Conference Center. It is about 30-40 minutes drive from the student hotel. If students struggle with motion sickness, taking some medicine before the trips is advised.
- We have seen the questions for theory and data analysis and we are satisfied with overall quality, scope and accuracy of the questions.
- There will be a timer or wall clock on display inside the exam hall.
- All participants will be given snacks and water bottles on the desk during the longer examinations.
- Instructions to contestants and table of general constants would be shared with the team leaders about a week before the IOAA. Team leaders should translate these beforehand and also explain the instructions to the contestants.
- During the examinations, all contestants will be made available a standard calculator, compass, and geometry tools like shown in the image below.
- The contestants are encouraged to bring their own pen (black or blue only), pencil, erasers, sharpners.

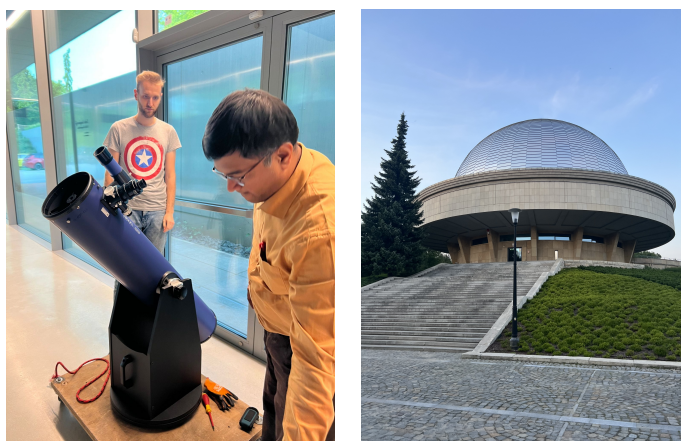


3.2 Team competition

- The team competition will be held at the Katowice International Conference Center.
- Each team will include contestants from different countries, assigned randomly.
- We are satisfied with the task for the team competition.

3.3 Observation and Planetarium Rounds

- Default plan is to do a round of telescope based observations and a planetarium round.
- We have seen the tasks and we are satisfied with overall quality, scope and accuracy of the tasks.
- We have inspected the telescopes and they work well. See the image of the telescope below.
- The location where telescope round will be conducted is sufficiently dark to complete the tasks. Students will have an unblocked view of targets.
- Planetarium round will be conducted at Planetarium Slaskie. Distance from the students hotel is around 40 minutes.
- The hosts plan to complete both telescope round and planetarium round in five batches each.



4 International Board Meetings

- The IBMs will be held in the conference room located inside the resort.
- We will be using OlyExams like in 2021. This time, there will be 2 people from OlyExams physically present to assist the process.
- The translation, printing and packing will happen in the same hall.
- Moderation will happen in the same room as the IBMs.
- The moderation will happen in three installments: (I) the afternoon of 16th August, (II) the morning of 17th August and (III) the morning of 18th August. Note that the team leaders will be able to meet the students on 17th August evening, which is after the first two stages. Given the number of teams and timetable constraints, this is the only feasible plan.

5 Ceremonies

- Opening and Closing ceremonies will be held at the Katowice International Conference Center.
- Organisers are notifying all the embassies in Poland about the date and time of the closing ceremony and any embassy representatives would be heartily welcomed.
- There will be assigned seating by countries inside the venue. Team guides will practice helping the teams getting onto the stage.

6 Transportation

- Transportation from Krakow and Katowice International Airports directly to the venue will be available for all teams.

- Teams reaching earlier than the day of arrival (possibly spending a day or two in Krakow) will be asked to assemble at the main train station in Krakow on the morning of 10th August and then transported to Katowice (roughly 2 hours).
- Note that the teams will be first brought to the students' hotel and leaders may have to wait there for some time before they are transported to the Leaders' hotel. Thus, leaders may reach their hotel 3-4 hours after landing at Katowice. Avoid flights reaching late at night.
- Organisers will arrange for all meals in Katowice. The meals during the transportation are not covered.
- The teams which are arriving in their own vehicles (car / bus) should note there is ample car parking available at the leader hotel and there is limited parking available near the student hotel. Contact organisers for travelling directions.

7 Other Comments

- In all, 53 countries have initiated registration process.
- In addition to our regular participating countries, Afganistan, Austria, El Salvador, Japan, and Saudi Arabia will also join IOAA 2023. France will join as an observer country.
- The event website <https://ioaa2023.pl/> is now ready and functioning.
- The excursions include a visit to a local castle and a coal mine. Team leaders will go on a hike. If some leaders are interested, they can coordinate with transport company (after arrival) and arrange a visit to the holocaust memorial at Auschwitz at their own cost on the morning of 16th August.