

SCO INTERNATIONAL MATHS OLYMPIAD

SCO IMO RULES & REGULATIONS

Grade 1 to Grade 12 | Global Online Mathematics Olympiad

Designed for global schools, teachers, parents, and students as a fair, secure, and academically rigorous online Maths Olympiad framework.

- three-cycle SCO Olympiad model: Spring, Summer, and Winter with multiple exam dates
- age-fit rules for Grade 1-12 learners from early numeracy to senior Olympiad reasoning
- marking policy, online proctoring rules, result moderation, appeal and certificate guidance

Arithmetic	Algebra	Geometry	Number Theory	Logic
Patterns	Reasoning	Mensuration	Trigonometry	Problem Solving

1. Purpose, Status and Global Education Alignment

The SCO International Maths Olympiad (SCO IMO) is a School Connect Olympiad online mathematics competition and preparation pathway for Grade 1 to Grade 12 students globally. It is designed to promote mathematical thinking, accuracy, logical communication, problem-solving confidence, and fair online competition across countries and school systems.

SCO IMO is benchmarked against the educational spirit of globally respected Mathematical Olympiad systems: discovering and encouraging mathematical talent, promoting mathematics, and supporting the exchange of school-level mathematics practices internationally. The SCO model adapts these expectations into an accessible online format for younger and senior school learners.

Important public-positioning note

SCO IMO is an independent School Connect Olympiad programme. It is not the official national team-selection route for the International Mathematical Olympiad unless a country/school authority separately declares such a pathway. SCO IMO should be presented as a rigorous online mathematics olympiad and preparation platform aligned with global Olympiad values.

2. Who Can Participate

Rule Area	SCO IMO Policy
Grades covered	Grade 1 to Grade 12 students studying in schools, homeschooling systems, or recognised learning environments.
Participation route	Students may participate through school registration, institutional registration, or approved individual registration as per active SCO portal rules.
Subject scope	Mathematics as the main competition subject; mental ability/logical reasoning may be included where configured for the grade or exam paper.
Language and accessibility	The official exam language is normally English unless SCO publishes an approved translation or school-specific language support.
Identity	Each candidate must use his or her own registered account, identity details, and exam credentials. Account sharing is not allowed.

3. SCO IMO Three-Cycle Exam Calendar

SCO IMO follows the SCO Olympiad three-cycle calendar so that schools and students around the world can choose an exam window that fits their academic schedule. Each cycle may contain multiple official online exam dates. The final date visible in the SCO portal is the confirmed exam slot for that student or school.

Exam Year	Cycle	Exam Window	Result / Publish Date	Status
2026	Spring	01 Jan 2026 - 31 Mar 2026	30 Apr 2026	Active
2026	Summer	01 Apr 2026 - 31 Jul 2026	31 Aug 2026	Active
2026	Winter	01 Aug 2026 - 31 Dec 2026	28 Feb 2027	Active
2027	Spring	01 Jan 2027 - 31 Mar 2027	30 Apr 2027	Active
2027	Summer	01 Apr 2027 - 31 Jul 2027	31 Aug 2027	Active
2027	Winter	01 Aug 2027 - 31 Dec 2027	29 Feb 2028	Active

Visitor-facing date style must remain consistent across SCO documents and website pages: 03 Jan 2026, 04 Apr 2026, 01 Nov 2025, 12 Dec 2026, and similar DD Mon YYYY format.

4. SCO IMO Exam Format

Component	Rule
Mode	Online proctored exam through the SCO Olympiad platform.
Question type	Primarily objective questions; problem-solving, logical reasoning, visual reasoning, data interpretation, and application-based mathematics may be included.

Component	Rule
Grade adaptation	Lower grades focus on concepts, patterns, numeracy and visual reasoning. Higher grades include algebra, geometry, number theory, combinatorics, statistics, probability, functions and proof-style reasoning.
Instructions	The exam-specific instructions shown before the paper and inside the portal are binding. Students must read them before starting.
Tools	Only materials explicitly allowed in the exam instructions may be used. Unauthorised books, notes, calculators, phones, websites, chat tools, AI tools, messaging apps or second devices are not permitted.
Time zone	International candidates must follow the exam time shown by the official SCO portal and any school-specific instructions.

5. Marking Policy

The marking policy must be transparent before the exam. The question paper/portal instruction panel is the final authority for marks, duration and question count for a particular grade, cycle and exam slot. The standard SCO IMO website rule should be stated as follows.

Marking Area	Policy
Correct answer	Award the full marks assigned to the question. In many SCO Olympiad MCQ papers, a standard question may carry equal marks; the exact mark value shown in the portal is final.
Incorrect answer	0 marks unless the paper-specific instruction states negative marking. For Grade 1-8, no negative marking is recommended to support learning confidence.
Unanswered question	0 marks. No penalty for leaving a question unanswered unless the portal instruction states otherwise.
Multiple correct/checkbox questions	Marks are awarded only as per the question instruction. If all required options are not selected, the score may be zero or partial only if the paper explicitly permits partial marking.
Tie-breaking	SCO may use final marks, accuracy, number of correct answers, lower time taken, proctor integrity status, and grade/cycle rules for ranking. The ranking algorithm published for the result cycle is final.
Rounding	Percentages may be rounded to the nearest whole number or to two decimal places as per result-page policy.
Result status	A result may be shown as provisional until proctor review, score moderation, payment/registration checks and result publication are complete.

Recommended grade-wise assessment design

Grade Band	Academic Focus	Exam Design Guidance
Grade 1-2	Foundational numeracy, shapes, patterns, comparison, money, time and early reasoning.	Short MCQ/visual reasoning paper; simple reading load; no negative marking.
Grade 3-5	Place value, operations, geometry, measurement, data handling, fractions, decimals and logical reasoning.	Concept + application MCQ paper; diagrams and word problems; no negative marking recommended.
Grade 6-8	Integers, rational numbers, algebra, geometry, mensuration, ratios, data and probability.	Reasoning-led MCQ paper; more multi-step problems; moderate time pressure.
Grade 9-10	Algebra, geometry, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, statistics, probability and applied problem solving.	Olympiad-style MCQ/application paper; higher reasoning and accuracy demand.
Grade 11-12	Advanced algebra, functions, sequences, calculus readiness, combinatorics, probability, coordinate geometry and proof-thinking.	Senior olympiad paper with deeper reasoning; questions may be more conceptual and non-routine.

6. Online Proctoring and Exam Integrity Rules

SCO IMO is an online global competition. Strong integrity rules are required so that students from different countries can compete fairly. Proctoring should protect honest students, support schools, and discourage unfair advantage.

Proctor Area	Rule
Before exam	Student must complete system checks, login with own credentials, keep required device permissions enabled, and sit in a quiet exam environment.
During exam	Student must remain visible where camera-based proctoring is enabled, avoid leaving the seat, keep the exam tab active, and answer independently.
Not allowed	Second device, phone, smart watch, calculator unless allowed, books/notes, external help, screen sharing, copying, messaging, search engines, AI tools, or collaboration.
Browser discipline	Tab switching, opening another app/site, copy-paste, screenshot attempts, fullscreen exit or repeated connection interruptions may be logged and reviewed.

Proctor Area	Rule
Identity and face rules	Mismatch between registered candidate and test taker, multiple faces, prolonged face absence, or suspicious camera blocking may trigger manual review.
Environment	Students should sit alone. Parents/teachers may help only before the exam starts and not during active exam time.
Technical issues	Genuine connectivity or device issues should be reported immediately. SCO may review logs before allowing any retest or special decision.

Proctor band and penalty policy

Band	Typical Meaning	Possible Decision
Clear / Excellent	Normal exam behaviour; no meaningful integrity concern.	No penalty; result processed normally.
Minor Alert	Small number of low-risk events such as brief network interruption or accidental tab focus change.	No penalty or warning only, subject to review.
Moderate Alert	Repeated suspicious events, repeated tab switching, face absence, avoidable interruptions, or inconsistent behaviour.	Result may be held for review; up to 10% score penalty may apply.
High Alert	Strong indicators of unfair help, repeated proctor violations, multiple faces, prolonged absence, or external-device suspicion.	Result may be held; up to 30% penalty or ranking restriction may apply.
Critical / Disqualification	Impersonation, confirmed external help, use of AI/search/communication tools, deliberate camera blocking, exam content sharing, or serious misconduct.	Score may be cancelled, certificate withheld, and school/parent notified.

Student-facing proctor transparency

SCO result pages should show a simple integrity status, key evidence timestamps, category of concern, and penalty calculation if any. Students should not be shown raw technical logs or confidential proctoring algorithms.

7. Academic Conduct and Fair Play

Fair competition is the foundation of any global Olympiad. Students must solve the paper independently. Schools, teachers and parents should encourage preparation before the exam, but no academic or technical assistance may be provided during the live exam.

- Do not share exam questions, screenshots, answers, login credentials or result access with unauthorised persons.
- Do not attempt to manipulate the browser, camera, network, system clock, portal flow, cookies, proctor scripts or result system.
- Do not copy content from websites, AI tools, social platforms, messaging apps or another student.
- Do not impersonate another student or allow anyone else to take the exam on behalf of the registered candidate.
- Report any suspected malpractice, technical failure or incorrect result through official SCO channels only.

8. School, Teacher and Parent Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Responsibilities
Schools	Register students accurately, select suitable cycle/date, communicate exam instructions, support device readiness, and protect exam confidentiality.
Teachers	Prepare students through concepts, examples, practice assignments and reasoning methods. Teachers must not provide help during the active exam.
Parents	Ensure the child has a quiet environment, stable device/internet, and understands independent exam behaviour. Parents must not prompt answers during the exam.
Students	Read all instructions, answer independently, manage time, avoid prohibited actions, and maintain academic honesty.
SCO	Maintain fair rules, secure platform delivery, reliable result processing, appropriate proctor review, and clear visitor-facing information.

9. Result Publication, Ranking and Awards

SCO IMO results are published according to the selected exam cycle, portal processing status, proctor review and result governance rules. The publish date is the intended cycle-level result date; exact display to a student may depend on registration, payment, school approval, result moderation and technical checks.

Result Area	Rule
Score report	Shows marks, percentage, attempted/correct/unanswered data where available, ranking and performance indicators.
Ranking	May be class-wise, country-wise, school-wise, national or international depending on the official result category.
Certificates	Participation, merit, medal, achiever or other certificates may be issued according to published SCO award policy.
Proctor review	A candidate with a pending proctor flag may see a result hold/update-awaited status until review is complete.
Corrections	If a technical correction or moderation decision changes the score, SCO may revise the result and certificate.

10. Appeals, Retests and Special Cases

Area	Policy
Appeal window	Appeals must be submitted within the official time window announced with the result or portal notification.
Appeal basis	Valid grounds include technical issue, identity mismatch correction, score-display error, or proctor-review clarification.
Not valid appeal basis	Disagreement with a published solution without evidence, request for extra marks without proof, or failure to follow exam instructions.
Retest	Retest is not automatic. SCO may allow it only for verified technical failure, administrative error, or school-approved special situation.
Final authority	The final decision of SCO result/proctor review committee is binding for the concerned cycle.

11. Privacy, Safety and Respectful Conduct

SCO IMO should remain safe for students, teachers, parents, schools, coordinators and staff. The competition must be free from bullying, harassment, discrimination, abusive communication, intimidation or misuse of student data. Personal information, images and proctoring signals should be collected and processed only for registration, exam delivery, integrity review, result publication, certificates and official support.

- Schools and parents must provide accurate student information and use official channels for corrections.
- Student photos, identity documents or proctor evidence must not be publicly shared by schools or users.
- Students requiring accessibility support should contact SCO before the exam date with proper information.
- SCO may anonymise or restrict publication of sensitive information where required by policy or applicable law.

12. Syllabus and Pedagogy Alignment

SCO IMO follows a Grade 1-12 mathematics pathway. The uploaded SCO syllabus begins with number recognition, counting, shapes, patterns, simple operations and comparison for early grades; moves through place value, arithmetic, geometry, measurement, time, money, data handling and probability for primary grades; introduces algebra, geometry, statistics, number theory and coordinate geometry for middle grades; and progresses to high-school algebra, trigonometry, analytic geometry, calculus readiness, statistics, probability, functions, sequences and series.

Grade Band	Pedagogical Focus
Grade 1-2	Concrete numeracy, shapes, patterns, comparison, time, money and early reasoning.
Grade 3-6	Structured arithmetic, place value, fractions, decimals, geometry, measurement, graphs, money and patterns.
Grade 7-8	Abstract reasoning through algebra, linear equations, angles, polygons, statistics, probability, factors, multiples and coordinates.
Grade 9-10	Algebraic manipulation, polynomials, quadratic equations, geometry, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, statistics and probability.
Grade 11-12	Advanced functions, sequences, pre-calculus, calculus readiness, analytic geometry, combinatorics, probability, data analysis and proof-style reasoning.

13. Final Authority and Updates

These rules and regulations are designed for visitor-facing publication. The SCO website, official registration page, student portal, exam instructions, school circulars and result policy together form the operational rule set. If there is any conflict, the instruction displayed in the active SCO portal for the selected exam cycle and date takes priority for that candidate.

SCO may update rules for security, regulatory, accessibility, academic quality, proctoring or operational reasons. Updates should be published clearly and applied consistently from the effective date.

Reference and Benchmarking Note

This SCO IMO rules and regulations document is prepared from the SCO IMO schedule/cycle input, the uploaded SCO Maths syllabus, the official SCO cover-page design, and global Mathematical Olympiad benchmark principles. Public references used include official International Mathematical Olympiad regulations and the official IMO website. These references are used for benchmarking educational values, fair play, assessment integrity and mathematical culture; SCO IMO remains a School Connect Olympiad programme.