

THE XXI INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

LONDON 1979

Notes on Coordination.

For each problem we supply a team of 2 or 3 coordinators. One is the chief coordinator for the problem. Each problem has a coordination room. According to a time-table the leader and deputy leader of each country bring their team's scripts. Half an hour is given on the time-table for the process of going through each of the 8 scripts and agreeing a mark. The leader goes through the script, translating, if necessary with an interpreter, what the competitor has written and pointing out any errors. He is supposed to suggest a mark. (The maximum for the problem has already been decided by the Jury.) When the mark is agreed it is entered on the competitor's script and signed by the chief coordinator and the leader. It is also entered on the printed form and when all 8 marks are entered on this form the chief coordinator and the leader sign the form. The chief coordinator sends the form to the secretary of the Jury. No marking scheme is decided in advance by the Jury.

The coordinators foresee solutions and common errors and decide how to treat these. It is best to mark the first 5 or 6 countries provisionally until one has one's opinion forged in the fire of possible controversy. In the end one must be consistent i.e. uniformly fierce or uniformly gentle and this may require returning and altering marks provisionally given. Consequently a note should be made by coordinators e.g. "YU: 2 proves the converse gave 4 marks" "US 3 overlooked possible exception -2".

In many cases coordination takes very little time and arrangements can be made outside the time-table to suit coordinators and leaders.

The coordination of GB scripts is done by a team including the leader of the country which proposed the problem, in the presence of the chief coordinator for that problem (who knows the form).

By Sunday morning the Jury will have decided the problems and they will be communicated by telephone to Dr. Hebborn at Westfield College. The Westfield College coordinators will decide among themselves which problems they will coordinate: at the Wednesday morning meeting at 8.30 a.m. coordination teams for each question will be finalised.

Coordination teams run 11 sessions each day Wednesday and Thursday from 9.a.m. to 4.p.m. with intervals mid-morning and for lunch.

The chief coordinator for each question should note any competitor worthy of a special prize and with the leader's permission keep the script. On Friday the chief coordinator or a deputy will present the case for a special prize at the Jury meeting. The total number of special prizes has varied from 2 to 6 per IMO. Special prizes are given for brilliancy and/or non-trivial generalisation.

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