

## Clarification regarding selection of past International Olympiad team members in OCSCs in 2016

As per the Olympiad brochure of 2015-2016, published on the HBCSE Olympiads website (<http://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in/uploads/science-olympiad-brochure-2015-16>), students who have represented India in an International Olympiad on a previous occasion may be granted exemption from the first stage (National Standard Examination, NSE) of the Olympiad in the respective subject. In continuation of this matter, the following clarification is made with regard to their potential selection in the third stage (Orientation-Cum-Selection Camp, OCSC) based on their performance in the second stage (Indian National Olympiad, INO).

A. As per the eligibility criteria given in the Olympiad brochure 2015-2016 (pg 8):

*Previous International Representation Clause: Candidates who have represented India in the International Olympiad on a previous occasion (IOAA, IBO, IChO, IJSO and IPhO) need not appear for the first stage NSE examination in the respective subject. Candidates who have represented India in the Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO) and the International Astronomy Olympiad Junior (IAO-Jr) need not appear for the 1st stage NSEP and NSEA Examinations respectively. Those candidates who thus qualify to skip the first stage NSEs may be allowed, on written request, to the respective National Coordinator, to directly appear for the second stage Indian National Olympiad (INO) examination, provided they satisfy other eligibility criteria such as age, pre-college status, etc.*

B. It is expected that due to their past experience, these candidates would do fairly well in the respective INOs. Thus, to ensure fair representation for other candidates, the past Indian team members would be subjected to following qualification rules:

- (1) Preparation of the merit list of INO, for the purpose of OCSC, will not include any past Olympiad team member.
- (2) The cut-off scores for qualification to OCSC will be decided based on top 25 / top 35 students (as the case may be in each subject) in the above-mentioned merit list.
- (3) Only those past Olympiad team members who have scored above this cut-off score would be included in OCSC list as additional students.
- (4) As mentioned in the Olympiad brochure (pg 9), selection of candidates for OCSC-Astronomy in 2016 will be based on a two-group formula. There would be two separate cut-off scores: one for students in class XII as of Nov 30, 2015 (Group A), and another for class XI and lower as of Nov 30, 2015 (Group B). Scores of past team members would be compared to the relevant cut-off scores according to their class. That is, those past team members who are in class XII would have to clear cut-off score of Group A and those who are in lower classes would have to clear cut-off score of Group B.

C. Selection of Indian team for International Olympiads in 2016 will be made purely on the basis of performance in OCSC, and will not be influenced by representation in past Olympiads.

**Mayank Vahia**  
National Coordinator  
Astronomy Olympiads

**Anwesh Mazumdar**  
National Coordinator  
Science Olympiads

Mumbai  
January 23, 2016