

# Marking and Coordination 2021

14/5/2021

Leaders will be able to download the Official Solutions and the Marking Scheme. This cannot happen before 16:30 UTC when the students have finished the contest all over the world.

You must mark strictly according to the marking scheme. Marking IMO is not like marking school work. There are no marks for effort, no marks for solving the wrong problem and no marks for social justice. Also, Leaders must not attempt to read the minds of their students. What matters is what is written. Marks can be awarded for rough work, provided that it is in accordance with the marking scheme.

Coordination (the process of agreeing the marks of the students) is not a contest between Leaders and Coordinators. It is a procedure which seeks to ascribe marks as fairly as possible in the context of the given marking scheme.

The Coordination Process is online. The Leader's credentials will take you to an online Coordination table. You will enter your proposed scores into the system. The Coordinators cannot see your proposed marks. The Coordinators also enter their proposed marks. At this point no human being knows what has been entered by both parties. The software will flag when there is agreement. You must then resolve any remaining differences.

There is a place where you can give a short justification of the mark you propose. For example, if you are asking for 3/7, you might write:

“This is an incomplete solution. The script should be awarded 2 points for 1(a) in the scheme. This is at the bottom of page 2. The student also should get 1 point for 1(h). The formula the student writes is equivalent to the one in the marking scheme. Therefore 3/7 is our proposed mark”.

Note that this is immediately visible to the Coordinator (even if a Leader uses the messaging system before entering any marks). Using the messaging software there will be a discussion, and it will be possible for each side to vary their proposed mark.

There will be a sequence of exchanges using an online form to share ideas. Both the Leader and the Coordinator can vary their proposed mark in the system. After a sequence of alternating exchanges, the marks will all be agreed and then locked.

In the unfortunate event that rational discussion does not lead to convergence, then other methods of communication may be used (email or official IMO Zoom rooms). Please act responsibly and do not ask for fantasy marks. We are all busy people, and asking for marks without good reason causes unnecessary stress.

## Important email addresses

**Contact emails: DO NOT SEND EMAILS TO MULTIPLE ADDRESSES (it causes confusion). Think which people are best placed to respond to your message, and send it to the MOST APPROPRIATE EMAIL ADDRESS.**

- IMO Ethics Chair: lamonedar@gmail.com
- IMO 2021 main organizers in St Petersburg: info@imo2021.ru

- Zoom, checking webcams for Exam Centres etc: [it@imo2021.ru](mailto:it@imo2021.ru)
- Registration IT and the IMO official website: [webmaster@imo-official.org](mailto:webmaster@imo-official.org)
- IMO Commission and IMOB president: [imocommission@gmail.com](mailto:imocommission@gmail.com)
- QandA session (first 30 minutes of exams): [qanda1729@gmail.com](mailto:qanda1729@gmail.com)

Geoff Smith IMOB President