



2nd circular

**November 8, 2022
Minsk,
Republic of Belarus**

Dear colleagues, let me express the hope that you are already preparing to participate in the Open Belarusian Physics Olympiad for schoolchildren (BelPho2022), which will be held in the Republic of Belarus in an online format from 20 to 26 November 2022.

In the second circular, we want to dwell in more detail on the steps that must be taken in preparation for participation in the Open Belarusian Physics Olympiad for schoolchildren. We remind you that important information for all categories of participants in the Olympiad is posted on the official website of the Olympiad <https://belpho.by/>, and also sent by e-mail to team leaders. All questions you can ask and send by e-mail: belphoby@gmail.com.

VERY IMPORTANT!!!

We ask you to confirm the participation of your country's team by November 15, 2022. To do this, please send an email to belphoby@gmail.com. After that, you will be given information to register your team.

If the participation of the team of your country has already been agreed, please register as soon as possible.

We remind you that the team consists of ten schoolchildren of two age categories (the younger age group is from 13 to 15 years old; the older age group is from 16 to 18 years old) and two team leaders. In addition, the work of two observers will be required.

Information about the duties of an observer is available on the website of the Olympiad.

Please also note that the preliminary program of the Olympiad is also available for review on the website of the Olympiad.

Camera and printing equipment setup

All students will have to be under surveillance during the exams. It is required to have 1 camera for each student that shows the face, the hands, and the table of the student. In addition, 1 camera from the back is required to film all students if possible. If not possible, then several cameras will have to be used to film all students from the back. It is possible to place all the participants in 1 exam room.

All video surveillance in GoogleMeet will be recorded. We also ask to record offline from the back of the room in case of some malfunction in the online surveillance.

In cases where the printing and/or scanning equipment is in another room, a camera will have to be installed there as well to monitor the printing and scanning without interruptions.

Please, make sure all computers and other devices are fully charged and well connected to the internet and charging to avoid interruptions.

BelPhO online format:

1. The students of each virtually participating country will be under strict supervision for the whole duration from the team leaders' receiving the exam tasks to finishing the last examination. Preferably in one location, the location would be the capital or a major city.

a. The students will have to stay in the hotel or other type of accommodation when they are not taking the exams.

b. The students will have to take the exams in a specially prepared hotel conference room, local school or University, or other facility adapted to the process of examination. It must be a non-residential space.

c. The competition room should be big enough to ensure that the distance between the contestants is maintained during exams.

d. In the competition room there should be enough personal computers for surveillance (notebooks, laptop computers, etc.) connected to web cameras, microphone for communication, printer for task printing, scanner with PDF-conversion software for solutions upload and, of course, stable internet connection. Observer is responsible for the set-up of the examination room.

2. At least one observer will have to be appointed by the participating country that is joining online. The observer can be any person who will cooperate with the Organizers of the BelPhO to monitor the preparation and examination activities.

a. The observer cannot be the participating student, nor the team leader who is appointed to translate and discuss the exams. The observer also cannot be a relative of a student, nor a friend or a colleague.

b. The observer should be fluent in English or Russian (written and spoken).

c. The observer needs to be able to monitor the movements and location of the students at any time, if needed.

d. The observer will collect the mobile phones, tablets and other communication equipment of the students for the time starting from the revealing of the tasks to the team leaders all the way through to the end of the last examination.

e. The observer will be the person preparing the exam room (e.g. making sure that each student receives the exam questions) and will also observe the exams. We

recommend starting preparations 1,5 hours before the exam (to connect to Google Meet, print problems, prepare student workplaces).

f. After the exam is finished the observers are asked to stay in the Google Meet call and scan all the answer sheets and prepare a single PDF file for every student and every task. PDF files should be uploaded to Google Disk as soon as possible after the exam. The scans must be legible. The Organizers will not take any responsibility if the text is impossible to read due to unappropriated scanning. Only PDF format files are acceptable.

3. The duration of the exams will be five hours.

a. Students are allowed to enter the examination room no earlier than 15 min before the exam starts.

b. Students will write answers in printed answer sheets with their participant's code.

c. In case of the need for blank paper for the students' notes, only those printed from Google Disk are accepted.

4. Video surveillance will have to be used throughout the examinations.

a. Each student will need to be filmed from the angle where the face and the paper is clearly visible.

b. The examination room will need to be filmed where all students are visible from the back.

c. The copy and scan equipment will need to be filmed throughout the printing and scanning of the exams. The setup of the printing equipment will have to be in sight and should preferably be in the competition room.

5. Any registered instance of cheating will result in the most strict consequences for the country in question. All individuals involved in the situation will be banned from further participation in the BelPhO. The results of the whole team where cheating is detected will be annulled.

Identification

All students have to have their passport or national ID during the exams, their identity may be checked by the organisers before the examinations.

Calculators

All students' calculators will have to be checked by the Observer(s) before the exams. The calculators will have to be collected and the data in data storage (if any) will have to be deleted. Random checks will be done during the preparations for BelPhO. Please, allocate time before each exam for a potential check.

Sincerely,
Organising Committee
Belarusian Open Physics Olympiad for schoolchildren