



First circular of 1st GeCAA 2020

Dear members of IOAA, colleagues, friends

This is the first circular of the 1st GeCAA (Global e-Competition in Astronomy & Astrophysics), the online auxiliary competition which was proposed by the IOAA to provide students to compete in 2020 on an international stage.

Important dates

05.08 - opening of registration
31.08 - closing of registration
25.09 - start of individual competition
27.09 - end of individual competition
28.09 - start of team competition
14.10 - end of team competition
23.10 - results, end of competition podcast

Competition website

The official webpage of the competition is:
www.gecaa.ee

Due to the hasty nature of the development of the competition the competition website is not fully filled with content and we kindly ask for patience for that.

Registration

The competition registration link is now open and can be found in:

<https://gecaa.ee/registration/>

Important to note that:

- The e-mail addresses used for registration will be used as usernames for the online competition.
 - They can be changed only by contacting the LOC.
- We will ask for a photo of all the contestants which will be used during the competition for comparison with the candidate.
 - If at any point we would need/want to use these photos for any other purpose (blog posts, competition materials, etc) we will ask on an individual basis for the usage rights.
- We also ask for the postal addresses of the teams, since we plan to send the final diplomas by regular mail for the students to have at least some physical output from the competition in addition to the virtual experience.

Academic committee of the 1st GeCAA

The academic committee of the 1st GeCAA consists of the following members.

1. Greg Stachowski – IOAA President
2. Aniket Sule – IOAA General Secretary
3. Tiit Sepp (Estonia)
4. Hara Papathanassiou (Greece)
5. Gustavo Rojas (Portugal)
6. Mikhail Kuznetsov (Russia)
7. Sonja Vidojevic (Serbia)
8. Geraldine Tan (Singapore)
9. Siramas Komonjinda (Thailand)
10. Volodymyr Reshetnyk (Ukraine)
11. Charles Barclay (UK)
12. Ioana Zelko (USA)

The academic committee is responsible for the problems in theory, data and team competition rounds of the competition.

Questions for the virtual observation round will be prepared by the Estonian national committee and approved by the international academic committee.

Organization of the competition

Here we give details of the format and requirements for the competition. As we still are partly in the planning phase, some minor changes are to be expected. All individual rounds use 5 different starting times depending on your country's choices. Every country will be assigned a designated time slot and their students must start the competition at least within the first 30 minutes (this limitation is still possible to change) of the start of the competition. All respective starting times will be published after the closure of registration. For all individual competition parts, we will use some video conference technology for monitoring and review. Students must be able to transmit live feed video and/or sound (exceptions must be consulted beforehand) and upload and upload images of their hand-written solutions.

The online competition system has been extensively tested for compatibility with Firefox, Chrome and Safari browsers. Make sure you have a fairly recent version of at least one of these browsers on your computer. We will provide detailed system and technical requirements prior to the opening of test competition and also test and describe compatibility with all browsers listed during registration.

We will provide more detailed instructions in the second half of August for all competitions.

Theoretical round

- Length of the round 3h
- During the selection of the problems the standard distribution of shorter and longer problems, that is common in IOAA is followed as much as possible
- Problems are expected to be slightly shorter than traditional IOAA problems
- Some basic knowledge of calculus might be beneficial for solving some problems. More details will be provided at the first possible moment.

Observational round

- Length of the round is 2h
- Problems might include virtual sky charts, recognition of objects/effects based on images and videos.
 - Thus having a mouse or other accurate means (better than just laptop touchpad) to point objects on screen is advisable.

Data analysis round

- Length of the round is 3h
- Graph paper accessibility is not required
- Ability to draw rough graphs and understand plots is necessary

Team competition

- Teams will be made semi randomly (meaning that students are drawn to teams using a randomized algorithm but are distributed so that team members' locations would have maximal spread across the globe).

Contacts

For practical organisational question contact Kelli Hanschmidt: kelli.hanschmidt@ut.ee

For scientific questions contact Tiit Sepp: tiit.sepp.34@gmail.com