

## REGULATIONS

### on the Procedure for Holding the International Chemistry Olympiad “Bukhara International Chemistry Olympiad – 2026 (BICHO-2026)” among Students of Higher Educational Institutions

#### Chapter 1. General Provisions

1. These Regulations establish the procedure for the organization and conduct of the International Chemistry Olympiad, “Bukhara International Chemistry Olympiad – 2026” (hereinafter referred to as the “Olympiad”). The Olympiad is organized for the purpose of identifying and demonstrating the intellectual potential of gifted students of higher educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and foreign countries, ensuring their participation in a competitive academic environment at the international level. These Regulations further define the organizational and methodological framework of the Olympiad, the conditions for participation, and the procedure for determining winners and awardees, in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Bukhara State University, and other relevant international organizations.

2. The Olympiad is conducted with the objective of stimulating the intellectual development of gifted youth, promoting the study of fundamental sciences, identifying and cultivating creative abilities and research interests, fostering international cooperation and intercultural relations among students from foreign countries, and highlighting the rich scientific heritage of ancient Bukhara.

3. The direct management of the Olympiad, the formation of the Jury and the Appeal Commission, the approval of winners and awardees, as well as the annual organization and conduct of the International Chemistry Olympiad, “Bukhara International Chemistry Olympiad – 2026” (hereinafter referred to as the “Olympiad”), are carried out by the Organizing Committee (hereinafter referred to as the *Organizing Committee*).

4. The dates and venue of the Olympiad are determined by the Organizing Committee.

5. The Organizing Committee is responsible for the organizational and financial support of the Olympiad, including ensuring the creation of conditions necessary to achieve its objectives, conducting the Olympiad in accordance with the principles of fair competition, and organizing associated cultural and educational activities.

The organization and conduct of the Olympiad are financed from extra-budgetary funds of Bukhara State University, as well as through financial and technical support provided by sponsoring organizations.

6. The Olympiad is conducted only in English. If it required will be conducted in Uzbek and other languages.

Students of all years enrolled in bachelor's and master's degree programs are eligible to participate in the Olympiad.

7. Participation in the Olympiad is open to students of bachelor's and master's degree programs majoring in chemistry, chemical technologies, and other related fields of study.

8. The organization and conduct of the Olympiad shall be carried out in accordance with the Olympiad Program, annexed hereto and forming an integral part of these Regulations.

## **Chapter 2. Participants of the Olympiad**

9. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Organizing Committee sends official invitations to higher educational institutions, including domestic and foreign institutions, to participate in the Olympiad, indicating the venue, conditions, and dates of the Olympiad.

An invited higher educational institution may send a team consisting of four students and one team leader (hereinafter referred to as the "team") to participate in the Olympiad.

10. A higher educational institution shall confirm its participation in the Olympiad by registering through the link specified in the official invitation within the established deadlines and by submitting information regarding the composition of the team to the email address indicated in the invitation. Information submitted by email shall serve as the basis for team registration. Within twenty (20) days, the Organizing Committee shall provide the higher educational institution with the necessary information, including the procedure for obtaining entry permits to the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

11. The team leader is responsible for the timely registration of the team, preparation of entry documents if necessary, correspondence with the Organizing Committee, organization of the team's arrival and departure within the established timeframes, and compliance with the Olympiad rules.

12. One student from among the team members is appointed as the team captain and has the right to participate in discussions concerning the team's results during the appeal procedures of the Olympiad.

13. In the event of violations during the Olympiad (submission of inaccurate information about team members, violation of the principles of equal participation, inappropriate behavior, etc.), the Organizing Committee has the authority to impose disciplinary measures, including the disqualification of the team at any stage of the Olympiad.

14. Team participants may be accompanied by observers (as tourists). Observers are permitted to attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympiad, as well as participate in non-competitive events determined by the Organizing Committee.

### **Chapter 3. The Olympiad Jury and Appeal Commission**

15. To conduct the competitive part of the Olympiad, the Organizing Committee forms the Olympiad Jury (hereinafter referred to as the *Jury*) from among distinguished scientists in the field of chemistry. The Organizing Committee shall appoint a Chairperson and two Deputy Chairpersons of the Jury and establish a working group composed of members of the Organizing Committee. The Jury includes both foreign and Uzbek scientists with experience in organizing and participating in academic Olympiads. The Chairperson of the Jury and one of the Deputy Chairpersons must be representatives of foreign countries. The composition of the commissions is determined in agreement with the Chairperson of the Jury from among team leaders (faculty members) representing from domestic and foreign higher educational institutions. The commissions shall perform their organizational functions under the supervision of the Jury.

16. The Jury develops Olympiad tasks, evaluation criteria, and assessment methodology and provides them to the commission members. Commission members assess the encrypted works of participants in accordance with the established criteria and assign scores. Each work is evaluated by three commission members and assessed by consensus. Under the supervision of the Chairperson of the Jury, a protocol of assessment is prepared and submitted to the Organizing Committee. In the event that extraneous marks or words are detected on encrypted answer sheets, the participant's results shall not be assessed, and the participant is removed from the Olympiad based on an official report. In individual rounds, the Olympiad tasks consist of five problems; in team rounds, three problems, provided in English, Russian, and Uzbek languages.

One day prior to the Olympiad, the Jury prepares the tasks, translates them into the three languages, makes one copy of each task in each language for every participant, places the tasks in envelopes, which are then sealed and handed over to the head of the working group.

17. During the period of task preparation, the Organizing Committee provides the Jury members with a separate room and the necessary conditions for work, catering, and

rest. All communication with Jury members are conducted exclusively through the communication means provided by the Organizing Committee.

18. The Chairperson of the Jury is entitled to financial remuneration. The amount of such remuneration shall be determined by the Organizing Committee and reflected in the Olympiad expenditure estimate.

19. In order to ensure the rights of participants and teams, an Appeal Commission is established. The Appeal Commission accepts and reviews appeals submitted by the team captain, resolves disputed issues, and ensures the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of participants. The composition of the Appeal Commission is determined by the Organizing Committee and includes at least three authoritative specialists selected from among the members of the Jury. Appeals are considered solely with respect to the results of the individual round and conducted within the timeframe established by the Chairperson of the Jury. In team rounds, scores are announced immediately upon completion, and any objections are considered on-site by the relevant commission.

#### **Chapter 4. Financing of the Olympiad**

20. Expenses related to the organization and conduct of the Olympiad (accommodation and meals for teams and Jury members, the awarding of winners, and other related expenses) are covered by extra-budgetary funds of Bukhara State University. Upon agreement with the Organizing Committee, teams may be received at Bukhara International Airports and provided with transportation to and from the Olympiad venue.

21. Travel expenses to and from the Olympiad venue (air travel) are covered by the sending party.

22. The Organizing Committee may accommodate certain requests of teams regarding changes in accommodation and meal arrangements; however, it does not guarantee coverage of expenses related to such changes.

#### **Chapter 5. Procedure for Conducting the Olympiad**

23. The Olympiad is conducted in the form of individual and team competitions. The competitive part of the Olympiad lasts 4 hours in a single day. Observers and team consultants are appointed to monitor the participants' work.

24. After all participants are seated, team leaders check the integrity of the container holding the tasks. In the presence of a representative of the Organizing Committee, the container is opened, and the tasks in envelopes are distributed to

participants. Any questions arising during this process are addressed through the Organizing Committee.

25. Each participant completes the tasks independently. Solutions are written on 10 A4 sheets provided by the Organizing Committee. Each task is to be written on one side of a sheet only and signed by the participant.

26. Participants are provided with pens, pencils, and the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements by D. I. Mendeleev. During the task completion process, drinking water, meals, and, if necessary, medical assistance are provided.

27. If a participant needs to leave the room, they must hand over their materials to the head of the working group until their return. In case of a violation of order, the head of the working group has the right to remove the participant from the room and prepare an official report.

28. After the allotted time expires, solution sheets are collected by members of the working group, placed in a special container, signed by the heads of observer groups, and delivered to the Chairperson of the Jury.

29. The Chairperson of the Jury opens the container in the presence of all Jury members. The works are then distributed among commission members and evaluated in accordance with the established procedures under the supervision of the Jury.

30. The evaluation criteria, methodology, and scoring scale for each problem are provided by the Chairperson of the Jury. The general scoring scale is as follows:

- Complete and correct solution — 10 points;
- Solution with minor errors — 7 points;
- Partial solution — 4 points;
- Presence of a logical attempt — 1 point;
- No solution — 0 points.

31. The assessment results are communicated to the team leaders.

32. In the event of objections to the assessment results, the Appeal Commission conducts an additional review and submits its conclusion to the Jury.

33. The final decision is made by a vote of the Jury. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Chairperson of the Jury is decisive.

34. The winners of the Olympiad are awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals and diplomas in a ratio of 1:2:3.

35. The award ceremony is held ceremoniously as part of the closing ceremony of the Olympiad.

36. Each participant and team leader receives a certificate confirming participation in the Olympiad.