



# Regulations for the SYNT

## 1. Swiss Young Naturalists' Tournament

The [Swiss Young Naturalists' Tournament](#) (SYNT) is a science competition for students up to 16 years old (students must not turn 17 years during the calendar year of the respective tournament). Participants are challenged to prepare a theoretical and experimental solution to a complex problem and to present and defend their solution in a debate (Science Fight) against the opposing team's scrutiny.

The SYNT takes place on one day (e.g. Saturday) before the International Young Naturalists' Tournament (IYNT) of the same year (i.e. usually between March and May). The tournament is organized by the association Pro IYPT-CH.

To facilitate preparation for students wishing to participate at the SYNT, Pro IYPT-CH organizes the [SYNT Science Workshop](#). The SYNT Science Workshop is a three-day long preparation course during which participants can conduct measurements and learn the basic skills required at the SYNT. The SYNT Science Workshop takes place a few weeks prior to the SYNT.

The [problems](#) for the SYNT correspond to the IYNT problems. They are published on the SYNT website ([www.synt.ch](http://www.synt.ch)) at least four months before the tournament.

## 2. Website

Important information (deadlines, problems, results, fight plan, etc.) about the SYNT and the Swiss team at the IYNT are published on the SYNT website ([www.synt.ch](http://www.synt.ch)).

## 3. Eligibility and Application

Only students living in Switzerland and enrolled in a secondary school based in Switzerland can apply for the SYNT.

The deadline for registration is published on the website at least two months in advance. This date applies both for students wishing to participate at the SYNT and the SYNT Workshop as well as for students who only wish to participate at the SYNT.

Students can register online on the SYNT website. Only complete applications will be considered. An application is only valid once the student has received a confirmation email from Pro IYPT-CH.

There are two possible ways to apply:

- **Team:** Any two participants from any school in Switzerland can register as a [team of two students](#). There can be several teams from the same school.
- **Individual participants:** The organizer will try to match students applying as [individuals](#) with other students to form teams.

Upon registration each student must choose an SYNT problem and the language of participation (German or English). Individual participants must be willing to participate in either language. No problem can be chosen more times than the number of Science Fights per round in the respective language group. Every student in a team must present the solution to a different problem.

## 4. Fees

There is no participation fee for the SYNT. Possible fees for the SYNT Science Workshop are published on our website before the registration opens. At the SYNT food is provided by the organizer and/or the



host. Pro IYPT-CH may partially or fully cover accommodation for participants. Eligibility is subject to the "Spesenreglement" of Pro IYPT-CH.

## 5. Preparation

Pro IYPT-CH organizes the SYNT Science Workshop during which the students receive coaching and can prepare for the tournament.

In addition, Pro IYPT-CH seeks the support of [universities and research institutes](#) to allow the students to use adequate experimental equipment where the schools cannot provide this or to get in contact with experts in the respective field.

## 6. Science Fights

All teams participate in three rounds of [Science Fights](#). The fight plan for the [two preliminary rounds](#) is published at least a week before the start of the SYNT. Every student in a team takes the role of Reporter and Opponent exactly once in the preliminary rounds.

In each Science Fight a problem cannot be presented several times.

## 7. Final Round

All teams participate in the final round.

In the final round, teams are allocated to fights according to the team ranking after the second round. Teams in each language group are arranged such that those similar in ranking are in the same fight.

Within five minutes after the second fight, the teams notify the chair in writing of their favorite problem for the third round without leaving the room. If teams intend to present the same problem, the better-placed team has higher priority. The accepted problems are announced as soon as all preferences have been submitted.

The Final Round follows the same regulations as the normal Science Fights. In a team of two every team member must be on stage in at least one role.

## 8. Science Fight regulations

### 8.1. Stages and Time Schedule

The Science Fights are led by a jury chairperson, the chairperson introduces the different phases of a Science Fight.

At the start of a round the jury members and the teams briefly introduce themselves.

A Science Fight with three (two) teams is divided into three (two) stages. In each stage the roles of the [Reporter](#), [Opponent](#) and [Observer](#) are assigned according to the table below. There is no Observer in fights with only two teams. If there are teams with more than two students or Science Fights, similar schemes apply.

<a href="#">Science Fight with three teams</a>			
Stage	1	2	3
Team 1	Rep	Obs	Opp
Team 2	Opp	Rep	Obs
Team 3	Obs	Opp	Rep

The tasks for teams in a fight are as follows:

- The **Reporter** (one team member indicated as active) presents her/his solution for the selected problem. The solution is expected to cover at least an important aspect of the problem and to include a theoretical model and an experimental/practical approach to verify this model. The solution should be understandable for a secondary school student.
- The **Opponent** (one team member indicated as active) asks clarifying and critical questions and points out possible shortcomings and mistakes in the solution presented by the Reporter. She/he shows the presentation's strengths and weaknesses. The discussion must be based on the solution presented by the Reporter (not on the Opponent's). A good Opponent should lead the discussion in a way that both participants can learn something new.
- The **Observer** does not have an active role. The team observes the performance of the other teams.

The Science Fight follows a strict timetable (see table below). After the time reserved for a phase has been used up no new thought may be added. When the preparation time is over, the time for the next phase is started.

Phase	Time (total 30')
Presentation of the Reporter	8'
Clarifying questions of the Opponent to the Reporter	3'
Preparation of the Opponent	3'
Statement by the Opponent	4'
Discussion between Opponent and Reporter	5'
Concluding remarks of the Opponent	1'
Concluding remarks of the Reporter	1'
Clarifying questions of the Jury to all speakers	5'
Jury grading	-

## 8.2. Team work and aids

During a Science Fight the team members can communicate with each other. Support from outside the team (e.g. from their science teacher) is strictly forbidden.

The internet may be used to access a dictionary, encyclopedia or similar, but not for communication.

During each stage of a Science Fight there is only one active participant per team. The other team members can help by giving technical support or by writing notes. In exceptional circumstances the chairperson can allow short comments from other team members.

## 9. Jury

The jury is organized by Pro IYPT-CH. Each jury consists of a chairperson who ensures that the SYNT-regulations are obeyed and of other jurors.

At the end of every stage the jury assesses the performances and every juror shows marks from **1 to 30 for the Reporter** and from **1 to 20 for the Opponent**. The **score** for a team corresponds to the weighted average (highest and lowest mark with 50 %, all others with 100 %). The score for each role is rounded to two decimal digits. The final score of each fight is rounded to one decimal digit.

## 10. Ranking

The grades of the preliminary rounds are used to make an individual ranking. Participants are only ranked on the individual ranking according to article 11. The performance in the preliminary rounds and in the final fight determines the team ranking. Both rankings will be published without points.

## 11. Absence of a team member

In case a team member is unexpectedly unable to attend the SYNT the team must report this to the organizers immediately. Students withdrawing may be charged a fee according to the terms of participation.

In case a team is reduced to only one team member, the remaining team member may find one additional helper who is eligible to participate at the SYNT and is not active in another fight. The helper is not allowed to take a role on stage. The organizers must be informed immediately.

The team is then expected to perform the roles of the missing team members. The grades in these stages do not influence the individual ranking.

A participant must perform at least one report and one opposition in the preliminary rounds in order to be ranked on the individual ranking.

## 12. Team qualification

If Pro IYPT-CH sends a team to the [International Young Naturalists' Tournament](#) (IYNT) the following holds.

The organizer (in cooperation with the jury) invites at least twelve participants (the SYNT champions in each language category and further students selected according to the individual ranking) for the team qualification where the Swiss team for the IYNT is selected.

Only participants who can be ranked on the individual ranking according to article 11 are eligible to participate at the team qualification.

Problems for the team qualification are assigned by the organizer.

## 13. Disciplinary action and Violations of Regulations

Participants or teams that violate the SYNT regulations can be sanctioned by a point deduction of up to 30 points per participant or by disqualification.

All participants must behave in an appropriate manner. Unfair behavior can lead to point deduction of up to 30 points per participant or to disqualification.

The final decision on any possible sanctions is taken by Pro IYPT-CH.

## 14. Appeal

In case one or several participants or jurors feel an action or behavior of an individual or group does not comply with the SYNT regulations, he or she may choose to report this. The procedure is as follows:

[For incidents not concerning grading:](#)

- For incidents that occurred during a fight round:  
The incident must first be reported to the chairperson of the jury. In case the matter cannot be resolved, the incident may be reported to the organizers. Pro IYPT-CH will decide on further actions or consequences.
- For incidents that occurred outside a fight room:  
The incident must be reported to the organizers. Pro IYPT-CH will decide on further actions or consequences.

**For incidents concerning grading:**

- The incident must be reported to the organizers no later than one hour after the respective fight round finished. The report must include a justification why the grading should be reconsidered. Pro IYPT-CH will then make a final decision. Pro IYPT-CH will in any case justify its decision towards the involved parties.

**Note:** A retrospective change of a grade or its weighting will only be considered in extreme cases. Due to organizational reasons any change of grades will only influence the individual ranking.

## **15. Responsibilities**

There exists a German and an English version of the regulations. In case of interpretation differences the German version is decisive.

In case situations not covered by the regulations arise, Pro IYPT-CH has the authority to make a determination.

The regulations have been approved by the association Pro IYPT-CH.

Zurich, 13.12.2019