Simon Marais Mathematics Competition
2 April 2026

1. Definitions

1.1. "Rules" refers to this "Simon Marais Mathematics Competition Rules" document only, except if explicitly indicated otherwise.

1.2. "Division" refers to any single geographical subdivision of the Simon Marais Mathematics Competition, with its own exam date, paper(s) and prize pool.

1.3. "Competition" refers to the Simon Marais Mathematics Competition held in all Divisions.

1.4. "Organisers" refers to the Chief Executive Officer, Program Coordinator and other members of the Mathematical Advisory Committee of the Competition, as appointed by the Board of Simon Marais Mathematics Competition Limited.

1.5. "Universities" are defined in 2.1.1.

1.6. "Eligible Grouping" is defined in 5.5.

2. Eligibility

2.1. **Institutional Eligibility**:

2.1.1. Institutions that are recognised as tertiary education institutions in their home country, and accepted as such by the Organisers, will qualify as "Universities" for the purposes of the Competition.

2.1.2. Universities that are between the designated time zones for a Division on the date of the relevant Competition, can submit an application to the Organisers for their students to participate. Designated time zones for the East Division are UTC +5.30 to UTC +13.00 (inclusive) and for the West Division UTC –2.30 to UTC +5.00 (inclusive). The Organisers will only accept the application if, among other criteria, the University undertakes to abide by the Rules and to enforce those Rules when administering the Competition.

2.2. **Individual Eligibility**: A person who, at the Competition date, is enrolled in a course or unit of study at a University that has been accepted into the Competition, can participate in the Competition through that University, provided:

2.2.1. They have not participated more than three times previously (through any University).

2.2.2. At the Competition date, the participant must have been a tertiary student for less than four full-time equivalent years. This includes the total duration of all periods of study at tertiary education institutions. However, the organisers may consider granting exemptions upon request, such as in cases of study interruptions, or if the student undertook university units during secondary school, or if the participant has a previous degree that did not include any mathematics study.

2.2.3. Their enrolment at the University through which they are participating in the Competition is equivalent to at least 10% of a full-year enrolment.

3. Registration

3.1. University application

3.1.1. Universities have to complete and submit a University Application Form (found at www.simonmarais.org) to the Organisers by the date for their Division determined by the Organisers and published on the website.

3.1.2. The Organisers will inform each University whether their application has been accepted by the date for their Division determined by the Organisers and published on the website.

3.1.3. The Organisers will refer to applicable Australian law and government recommendations when determining whether to accept a University application. If such law or recommendations change subsequently, the Organisers reserve the right to update their decision with respect to that University and its registered students.

3.1.4. Each University must nominate one responsible person (the "local coordinator"), who has to be an academic staff member (not a student).

3.1.5. The local coordinator will be responsible for the individual registration process and for the administration of the exam at the University.

3.1.6. The local coordinator can recruit assistants to help with the running of the event and the invigilation of students, but will assume full responsibility for their conduct.

3.1.7. The local coordinator will, along with the University and as part of the University application, undertake to abide by the Rules.

3.1.8. Local coordinators at nearby Universities may decide to

collaborate in hosting the exam at just one University for the collaborating Universities.

3.2. Individual and Pairs registration

3.2.1. Students at a registered University who wish to participate must register themselves with the designated local coordinator at their University, so that a list of participants is received by the Organisers by the date for their Division determined by the Organisers and published on the website.

3.2.2. The student has to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the University and the Organisers that they satisfy the Individual Eligibility conditions under 2.2.

3.2.3. The student has to indicate whether they will be participating individually or as a member of a pair; in the latter case the other member of the pair has to be accepted for registration by the University and Organisers as well, and also state that they will be a member of that pair. The two members of a pair must be students at the same University.

3.2.4. At the time of registration, the student has to certify, using the *pro forma* registration form, that they will

3.2.4.1. adhere to the rules of the Competition and in particular

3.2.4.2. not communicate exam questions or solutions to anyone except their partner (if they are part of a pair) before the end of each exam, or to anyone outside their exam centre before the end of the final exam.

3.2.5. Universities will keep a record of the identifying information and any other information gathered with respect to 3.2.1–3.2.3.

3.2.6. Local coordinators should ensure that they submit complete and verified participant information, as requested by the Organisers, by the designated student registration deadline, otherwise none of the students from that University will be considered officially entered.

3.2.7. The Organisers reserve the right to impose an upper limit (cap) on the number of entering units from each University, where the number of entering units equals the number of single entrants plus the number of pairs. This cap will be determined by the Organisers and will be updated on the website each year.

4. Exam

4.1. The Organisers will determine the date of the examination for each Division annually and make it public before entries are invited.

4.2. Exams can be conducted in-person only. Remote participation will be allowed in special circumstances only with permission from the Organisers via the relevant Local Coordinator. The Organisers reserve the right to review a particular University's procedures for the Competition exam at any time, in person or otherwise.

4.3. The examination shall consist of up to two periods of exactly three hours each (including reading time), with a 90-minute break between the two sessions.

4.4. Each session will be a three-hour closed book exam. One of these may include one open problem, which will be identified as such. Students will write their solutions by hand using a pen, not pencil.

4.5. The examination papers will only be available to the local coordinator for downloading 60 minutes before the start of the examination. Each local coordinator will be responsible for downloading, printing and distributing the papers by the official starting time, and keeping the contents of the exam confidential before the starting time. The Organisers will not be responsible for any local difficulties in downloading/copying/distributing examination papers.

4.6. Exams will commence in a staggered fashion across time zones, with the intent that no session commences anywhere after that equivalent session has already ended in another time zone within the same Division (the only exception is listed in 4.7). Final exam times will be published on the website in accordance with the schedule also available on the website.

4.7. Students, who for reasons of disability, religion, or other exceptional circumstances, cannot take the examination during the scheduled hours, may be permitted to complete the examination as soon as possible afterwards but no more than 24 hours later than the scheduled times. Such special arrangements are only possible with the written approval from the Organisers via the relevant Local Coordinator at least three weeks prior to the competition date. Prior to approval, the Organisers may request additional information regarding the justification and proposed arrangements for the re-scheduled examination.

4.8. The local coordinator will conduct the Competition exam under stringent University examination conditions and ensure that there is no collaboration or outside assistance of any kind. The only exception to the non-collaboration rule is within each pair.

4.9. The Organisers will provide local coordinators with contact details to which to refer any student requests for mathematical clarifications or explanations regarding Competition problems during

the exam. Local coordinators, and any other persons who assist in supervising the exam, may not provide students with any clarifications or explanations of the Competition problems, except with the explicit consent of the Organisers via this designated contact.

4.10. Local coordinators should ensure that the members of a pair can communicate without being overheard by or disturbing other entrants. For on-site exams, this will probably entail a separate room for each pair, or at least a density much lower than usual exam conditions. Pairs entrants will very likely imply the need for assistants to the local coordinators (see 3.1.6).

4.11. Students must relinquish any devices capable of communication, computation or storage for the duration of each examination session, including tablets. Exceptions may apply under special circumstances. Please notify the Organisers via the relevant Local Coordinator to discuss if this is applicable to your student's situation.

4.12. As the competition takes place in multiple time zones, students will not be allowed to join a session once it has started. Additionally, students are not permitted to leave a session before it ends, except in certain situations. One general exception is if leaving the session is unavoidable, such as for a medical emergency. In all cases, the student must inform the local coordinator that they are leaving, and the local coordinator will record the name of the student, the reason and the time they left. This rule does not apply to toilet breaks, which may be taken as usual under university examination conditions.

4.13. If one member of a pair is absent for the entire Competition day, the other member of that pair can participate as an individual entrant. The preassigned Competition identification number would by default identify them as a pairs entrant, so as soon as possible after the conclusion of the examination, local coordinators must inform the Organisers by email of their conversion from pair to individual. Absences for less than the entire Competition day would not result in such a conversion. Conversion of two registered individual entrants to a pair is not allowed.

4.14. After the examination, local coordinators are responsible for returning electronic copies of students' papers to the Organisers for marking. The Organisers will notify the local coordinators of a cut-off date for receipt of these electronic copies and of more detailed procedures for uploading. Students may regain access to their mobile phones or other devices at the conclusion of each exam session in order to immediately scan their solutions and email an electronic copy to their local coordinator. Alternatively, local coordinators may collect all papers (including rough work) at the conclusion of each exam session and subsequently scan the worked solutions themselves. Local coordinators must not accept

solutions, either electronically or on paper, after the conclusion of the exam session.

4.15. As soon as possible after the conclusion of the examination, local coordinators must inform the Organisers by email of:

4.15.1. any possible breaches of exam conditions, including instances where students have not relinquished devices as required by 4.11;

4.15.2. any students who entered into the sessions late or left early for unavoidable reasons according to 4.12;

4.15.3. instances where one member of a registered student pair was absent for the entire Competition day, while the other student was present and thus needs to be converted to an individual entrant according to 4.13; and

4.15.4. anything else that may affect the equity and integrity of the competition.

4.16. Students are able to submit complaints regarding how the examination was conducted to their local coordinator (within one week of the examination) or directly to the Organisers (within two weeks of the examination).

4.17. As soon as possible after the conclusion of all Competition sessions, the Organisers will post the problems on the Competition website. Until this public release, participants and local coordinators must not share their knowledge of the problems with others or disseminate them in any way.

5. Scoring

5.1. Grading and scoring decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

5.2. Each problem is graded on a scale from 0 to 7, with the possible exception of the open problem, which is intended to separate the top students.

5.3. Scores will be computed for each participating individual and each pair and will be the sum of scores for the solutions submitted to each problem by that individual or pair.

5.4. Multiple solutions or attempted solutions to problems may be submitted and will be considered by markers. No marks will be deducted for multiple attempts at the same problem, nor will marks be deducted for incorrect work.

5.5. A University score will be calculated for each University based on the performance of its participating students, as follows. The University score will be the maximum over all possible Eligible Groupings for that University. An Eligible Grouping consists of at

most 3 individuals and at most 2 pairs, such that at most 4 of the students involved are of the same gender. An Eligible Grouping score is the sum of up to five scores: one for each individual and each pair in that Eligible Grouping.

6. Results

6.1. The Organisers reserve the right to perform statistical analysis on results by location, as well as relying on other reasonable means to identify suspected irregularities.

6.2. In case of suspected irregularities, the Organisers will have the right to withhold individual, pair and/or University scores from the overall results pool until the matter is resolved.

6.3. Where the Organisers are satisfied that an individual, pair or University has broken one of the Rules, they retain the right to disqualify the individual, pair or University. If a University is disqualified, all individual and pair entries from that University are automatically disqualified.

6.4. Where a person has previously been disqualified whether entered as an individual or in a pair, or where a University has previously been disqualified, the Organisers reserve the right to refuse registration for future Competitions by that person or University.

6.5. Within each Division the names and Universities of the top quartile individual contestants, the top quartile pairs, the top quartile Universities, as well as the top individual, pair and University in each country will be posted on the website as soon as possible. In cases where the student did not consent to the use of their name, an entry of "Name Withheld" will be displayed alongside the University name.

6.6. Further summary information that does not identify particular individuals or Universities may be posted on the website.

6.7. A report giving ranking information regarding individuals and pairs at a participating University and the University ranking will be communicated to the local coordinator of the examination at the University. Contestants may obtain information related to their own rank only from their local coordinator.

6.8. Local coordinators will be encouraged to submit the listing outlined in 6.5 to applicable professional mathematics publications, e.g. in the case of Australia to the Gazette of the Australian Mathematical Society.

6.9. Solutions will be published on the website in due course.

7. Prizes

7.1. Before each running of the Competition, the Organisers will post on the website the full details of the amounts and criteria of all cash prizes on offer.

7.2. Within each Division, cash prizes will be on offer to individual or pairs entrants who achieve the top 10 places in their respective categories, with the amount offered for 10th not less than 20% of the amount offered for 1st. The prizes for pairs entrants will be split equally between the two members of the pair, and the amount on offer for each member of the pair will equal the amount on offer for an individual entrant achieving the same place.

7.3. In the event of a tie for a prize placing, the Organisers may adjust the amounts to be awarded at their discretion, while maintaining the same total prize money in each category and ensuring that higher placings receive greater or equal prize money.

7.4. For a Division in which at least 25 universities register to participate and for which the examination consists of the full two periods, the total prize money for top 10 individuals will be no less than A$15,000; the total prize money for top 10 pairs will be no less than A$30,000. For a Division in which fewer than 25 universities register to participate, or for which the examination consists of only one period, the prize money will be determined pro rata.

7.5. The Hofflin Prize of A$3,000 is awarded for the most creative solution to any problem in the Competition, across all Divisions. If awarded to a pair, it is split equally between the two members of the pair.

7.6. In recognition of the Competition's base in Australia, a prize of A$2,000 will be awarded to the top-placed individual from Australia, and to each member of the top-placed pair from Australia. In the event of ties in these categories, these prize amounts will be split equally.

7.7. In addition to the prizes described in 7.2–7.6, further cash prizes may be offered for creative or insightful work, for top placings within a country or University, or for other types of distinguished performance. Some such prizes may be sponsored by bodies external to Simon Marais Mathematics Competition Ltd. Subject to the constraints which may arise from the funding sources of such prizes, for example in being restricted to entrants from specified countries, the Organisers will endeavour to ensure that the overall prize pool of each Division remains as equitable as possible.

7.8. If it is not possible or permissible to execute standard international payment of prize money after a Competition, the

Organisers will retain the prize money for up to three years after the date of the Competition. If at that time it is still not possible or permissible to make the payment, the unpaid prize money will be added to the general prize pool and will no longer be payable to the original prize winner(s).

7.9. In addition to cash prizes, corporate internship opportunities may be available to some high-performing entrants. Any such opportunities will be listed on the website each year.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. The Organisers may, without notice, amend the Rules at any time by posting an amended version at www.simonmarais.org.

8.2. Simon Marais Mathematics Competition Limited retains all rights to the exam questions, answers and responses. Without limitation, this material cannot be reproduced for commercial gain.

8.3. Unless otherwise specified, all exam papers will be set in English, and all submitted responses must be in English.