SEERC On-Site Contest Rules

Contest Area, Materials & Electronics Policy

SEERC Organizing Committee

September 2026

Main Takeaway

SEERC follows ICPC Regional and World Finals standards for on-site contests. Teams may only bring very limited printed materials (Team Reference Document and optional dictionaries). **No electronic devices of any kind are allowed in the contest area; all devices must be handed to the coach or volunteers before entering.** TRDs must be printed in advance and handed in at registration.

1. Relationship to ICPC Rules

SEERC follows the **official ICPC Regional Contest Rules** and the **ICPC World Finals Rules** for contest conduct and judging.

These SEERC On-Site Rules specify additional **local regulations** for:

- What contestants may bring into the **contest area**
- **Electronic devices** policy
- **Team Reference Document (TRD)** handling

2. Attendance, Registration, and Check-In

2.1 Attendance and Cancellation

- If a registered team fails to attend the SEERC on-site contest without a valid, documented reason, or fails to notify the organizing committee at least one week (7 days) prior to the event, the team and its members will be disqualified from participating in SEERC the following year.

2.2 On-Site Registration

1. All teams must complete on-site registration before the practice session.
2. At registration, contestants must present a valid **photo ID** and any other documents required by ICPC.

3. Teams must submit all physical copies of their **Team Reference Document (TRD)** at this time (see Section 5).

2.3 Contest Area Access

1. The **contest area** is a **restricted zone**.
2. Only the following individuals may enter the contest area during the practice session and contest:
   - Registered contestants,
   - Authorized contest staff and volunteers, and
   - Other persons explicitly authorized by the Contest Director.
3. Contestants must **follow all instructions** of the contest staff and proctors at all times.
4. Contestants **may not touch any workstation equipment** (computer, keyboard, mouse, network cables, etc.) until instructed by a proctor to begin the practice or contest session.

3. General Policy on Items in the Contest Area

Unless explicitly allowed in the following, **all personal belongings are prohibited** in the contest area. You should leave them at the hotel, to your coaches, or to our volunteers.

3.1 Absolute ban in the contest area

No electronic or machine-readable devices of any kind are allowed in the contest area. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Mobile phones, smartphones, satellite phones
- Wearable devices with electronic components, including smartwatches, digital watches, fitness trackers, electronic wristbands, and smart glasses
- Tablets, laptops, netbooks, e-readers
- Calculators, electronic dictionaries, handheld gaming devices
- Headphones, headsets, earbuds, in-ear devices, Bluetooth devices
- Cameras, video cameras, audio recorders
- USB sticks, external hard drives, memory cards, or any storage media
- Any device capable of **computation**, **storage**, **communication**, or **recording**

3.2 Hand-over procedure

1. Before entering the contest area for the **practice session** or the **contest**, all contestants must:
   - Leave their electronic devices with their **coach**, **or**
   - Deposit them with **designated volunteers** at a staffed collection point.
2. Devices handed to volunteers may be:
   - Stored in individually labeled envelopes or lockers, and
   - Retrieved **only after** the contest staff announces that the contest is over and the area is cleared.
3. Contestants entering the contest area must be prepared for **bag checks** and **personal checks** (e.g., pocket inspection) by authorized staff if it is considered necessary.

3.3 Violations

Possession or use of any electronic device in the contest area **at any time on contest day** may result in:

- Immediate removal from the contest,
- Team disqualification,
- Reporting to ICPC for further sanctions.

Refusal to comply with inspections or instructions is treated as a serious violation.

4. Allowed Non-Electronic Items

Unless prohibited by the organizers, the following items **are allowed** in the contest area:

1. **Writing instruments** - e.g pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, highlighters.
2. **Team Reference Document (TRD)** - As described in detail in Section 5.
3. **Official items** - Badges, official SEERC shirts, problemset

Any other item not covered above must be **requested in advance** from the organizing committee; written approval must be obtained before bringing it into the contest area.

5. Team Reference Document (TRD)

SEERC permits teams to bring a **Team Reference Document** (TRD), following the standards used in ICPC Europe and World Finals TRD guidelines.

5.1 Content and format

1. The TRD is the **only** source of pre-written code and algorithmic reference material permitted during the contest.
2. The TRD **may contain at most 25 pages** of reference materials:
   - Up to **25 single-sided pages**
   - On **A4 or Letter size** paper
   - All pages must be **numbered in the upper right-hand corner**
   - The **university name** and **team name** must be printed in the upper left-hand corner of each page
3. All text and illustrations must be readable **without magnification** from a distance of approximately **0.5 meters**.
4. Handwritten annotations:
   - The document may include **hand-written comments and corrections on the fronts of pages only**, provided they are present **before submission at registration** (see 2.2).
   - No additional pages may be added after printing.

5.2 Copies per team

Each team may prepare **one TRD** and print **up to three identical copies** (one per contestant).

Contestants are permitted to bring one printed, bilingual translation dictionary for use during the contest. The dictionary must remain completely unannotated and free of any markings, exceptions being made only for the explicit identification of the owner's name and university.

5.3 System Accessibility

The TRD will NOT be uploaded, stored, or accessible on the workstation computer.

5.4 Submission and control of TRD

1. Teams must **print their own TRD**; the organizers will **not print** TRDs for teams.
2. All copies of the TRD must be **handed in at on-site registration**:
3. Approved TRDs will be placed at the team's workstation before the **Contest**, and not the practice session.
4. After the end of the contest, teams may collect their TRDs.

No further changes to the TRD are allowed after it has been handed in at registration.

Printing Policy

- Contestants may submit code or text for printing directly through the contest system environment during the contest.
- Printed materials will be delivered directly to the team's workstation by volunteers
- Contestants may write handwritten notes on these printouts only while sitting at their allocated workstation.

Clarification Request

- All questions regarding the problem set must be submitted electronically through the contest management system.
- Clarification requests and responses must be written strictly in English.
- The judges may respond with "No Comment" if they determine the problem statement is already clear and unambiguous.
- Any critical correction or notification issued by the judges will be broadcasted simultaneously to all competing teams.

Scoreboard Freeze

- The public scoreboard will be frozen during the final hour of the contest.
- During the freeze period, teams will still receive judging verdicts for their own submissions.
- Submissions and problem-solving progress of other teams will remain hidden until the final results are announced during the closing ceremony.

6. Food, Drinks, and Breaks

1. **No food** is allowed inside the contest team area unless explicitly provided and permitted by the organizers.
2. Drinks policy will be specified by the host:
    - Typically, only **sealed bottles of water** or organizer-provided drinks at the team workstation are allowed.
3. Contestants are expected to remain in the contest area except when:
    - Using the restroom - with a dedicated volunteer,
    - Following explicit instructions from contest staff (e.g., evacuation, medical reasons).
4. Leaving and re-entering the contest area is allowed only under staff supervision and may be logged for security reasons.

Note on Planned Medication: Contestants requiring scheduled medication or specialized medical devices (such as inhalers or insulin pumps) during the contest must officially notify and obtain approval from the contest organizers prior to the start of the contest proper.

7. Conduct During the Contest

1. Communication is **only permitted within the team of three contestants** at the same workstation.
2. Contestants may communicate with contest staff **only** for:
   - Technical problems with the workstation,
   - Administrative issues (e.g., restroom requests).
   - Printed materials [e.g., code or text]
3. Any attempt to:
   - Communicate with persons outside the team,
   - Receive outside assistance,
   - Access unapproved materials or devices, or
   - Tamper with contest systems or other teams' work

   may result in immediate disqualification.

8. Clothing Policy

- All contestants and coaches must wear the official contest T-shirt on top of all other clothing (visible at all times) during all official events, including the practice session, contest proper, and awards ceremony. Badges must be visibly worn at all times during the event
  - If the contest area is cold, contestants may wear sweaters, hoodies, or long-sleeve shirts, provided that the official contest T-shirt is worn over them. Jackets or coats that cover the contest T-shirt are strictly prohibited inside the contest area.

9. "What To Bring" Summary for Teams

You MUST bring to registration:

- Printed **Team Reference Document** (up to 25 pages, single-sided, A4/Letter, 3 identical copies in a folder)
- Personal **writing instruments** (pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener)
- Valid **photo ID** and any documents required by ICPC

You MUST NOT bring into the contest area:

- Any **electronic device** (phones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, calculators, headphones, USB drives, etc.)
- Bags, coats, books (other than dictionaries), loose notes, extra printouts
- Food (unless specifically allowed by organizers)

All electronic devices must be given to your **coach or volunteers** before you enter the contest area. Possession of any device inside the contest area is grounds for disqualification.

Disclaimer

Please note that the organizing committee of SEERC 2026 reserves the right to make additions, clarifications, or exceptions to the official ICPC Regional Contest rules before the contest. These changes may be necessary to ensure the smooth running of the event and to maintain fairness for all participants.

Any additions, clarifications, or exceptions to the rules will be communicated to the participants in advance of the contest through official channels, such as the SEERC 2026 website or during the contest briefing. It is the responsibility of the participants to stay informed about any updates to the rules.

By participating in SEERC 2026, all contestants acknowledge and agree to abide by the official ICPC Regional Contest rules, as well as any additional rules, clarifications, or exceptions set forth by the SEERC 2026 organizing committee.

If you have any questions or concerns about the rules or any updates, please don't hesitate to contact us at a.spitalas@upatras.gr.

Code of Conduct

SEERC brings together students, coaches, volunteers, and organizers to celebrate problem-solving, teamwork, and learning. We want everyone to feel welcome, safe, and respected.

This Code of Conduct applies to all participants, coaches, volunteers, organizers, staff, and guests—both on-site and in SEERC-related online spaces.

1. Respectful Behaviour

- We treat each other with respect, openness, and consideration.
- We communicate clearly and politely.
- We handle misunderstandings calmly and constructively.
- We respect personal boundaries and the comfort of others.
- Harassment, discrimination, threats, or intimidation of any kind are not tolerated.

2. Inclusion & Diversity

SEERC welcomes people from many backgrounds. Diversity strengthens the contest community.

- We do not tolerate discrimination based on gender, identity, nationality, ethnicity, language, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age, or appearance.
- We talk with each other, not about each other.
- We are mindful of sensitive topics and of minors present at the event.

3. Safe Environment

- We contribute to a safe, comfortable event for all.
- We respect shared spaces and equipment.
- We follow instructions from organizers regarding safety, logistics, or venue use.
- If someone behaves inappropriately or makes others feel unsafe, organizers may take action, up to and including removal from the event area.

4. Reporting & Support

If you experience or witness behavior that violates this Code of Conduct:

- Speak to an organizer or the designated contact person.
- Reports are handled confidentially whenever possible.
- You may bring a trusted person when discussing an issue.

5. Scope

This code applies:

- During the entire SEERC weekend.
- In all event spaces provided by SEERC (practice area, contest floor, common areas, social spaces).
- In SEERC-related online channels.

Contest behavior itself is governed by the official rules.

6. Improvements

We welcome feedback on how to improve this Code of Conduct. It is a living document and may be refined with input from participants, coaches, judges, volunteers, and organizers.