



# 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 are selected from 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. Registration

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 (including international Schools) 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.

Every student in a team must present a solution to a different problem.

## 4. Fees

The participation at the SYNT and SYNT Science Workshop is [free](#).

## 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](#) (e.g. ETH, Empa, Science Lab, etc.) 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 two rounds of [preliminary Science Fights](#). The fight plan 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. The Science Fights are [in English](#).

## 7. Science Fight regulations

### 7.1. 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 two teams is divided into two stages. In each stage the roles of the [Reporter](#) and [Opponent](#) are assigned according to the table below. If there are teams with more than two students or Science Fights with more than two teams, similar schemes apply.

Science Fight with two teams		
Stage	1	2
Team 1	Rep	Opp
Team 2	Opp	Rep

The tasks for the two students actively involved in a fight are as follows:

- The [Reporter](#) 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](#) 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 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. If 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'

## 7.2. 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 not be used.

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

## 8. Jury

The jury is organized by Pro IYPT-CH. Each jury consists of a chair person who ensures that the SYNT-regulations are obeyed and 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 %).

## 9. Ranking

The grades of each fight are used to make a team ranking. The ranking will be published.

## 10. Final Fight

The two teams with the **highest total score** (team ranking) after two rounds qualify for the **Final Fight**. In case of two teams in second place with the same total score the more balanced individual scores are preferred. In the Final Fight the second team after second rounds presents first, the first team last.

Within thirty minutes after announcing the participants of the Final Fight, the teams notify the organizer of their favourite problem. If both teams intend to present the same problem, the better-placed team has higher priority. The accepted problems are announced immediately.

The Final Fight 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.

## 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.

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.

## 12. Team selection

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

Six students can qualify to represent Switzerland at the IYNT. The members of the winning team are directly qualified, unless a team member missed one of his/her stages in the preliminary rounds. Other team members are selected by Pro IYPT-CH. For this Pro IYPT-CH considers the individual performance as well as further criteria.

In case a member is unable to be part of the IYNT team Pro IYPT-CH will approach further candidates.

## 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 disqualification.

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

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

## 14. Appeal

In case one or several participant or juror feels 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 chair 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 team selection.

## 15. Responsibilities

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

Zurich, 19.02.2019