

USIOT

Accessibility & Testing Accommodations Policy

United States of America Informatics Olympiad in Teams
Effective for the 2026-2027 contest season

Requests: director@usiot.net

Accommodation status is confidential, is not shown on score reports, and is withheld from National Finals and Team USA selection committees.

1. Purpose and scope

USIOT provides reasonable accommodations so that competitors with disabilities, medical conditions, temporary impairments, and other qualifying accessibility needs can participate on equal terms. An accommodation is intended to remove a barrier created by standard contest conditions without changing the knowledge, problem-solving ability, programming skill, or teamwork that the competition is designed to assess.

Accommodations are reviewed individually. Receiving an accommodation does not change scoring standards, advancement thresholds, problem difficulty, conduct rules, or eligibility requirements.

2. Who may request accommodations

A competitor may request an accommodation when a disability, medical condition, temporary impairment, or other qualifying condition materially affects participation under standard contest conditions. Examples may include:

- ADHD and other neurodevelopmental disabilities;
- learning disabilities such as dyslexia or dysgraphia;
- autism spectrum disorders;
- visual, hearing, physical, or mobility disabilities;
- chronic or temporary medical conditions;
- psychiatric disabilities;
- conditions requiring medication, food, medical devices, movement, breaks, or other supports during testing.

USIOT evaluates the functional need for an accommodation, not the diagnosis alone. A diagnosis does not automatically determine which accommodation is appropriate, and a competitor does not need to disclose unrelated medical information.

3. Examples of available accommodations

Depending on the competitor's needs and the format of the applicable round, accommodations may include:

- extended testing time;
- additional or stop-the-clock breaks;
- reduced-distraction or separate testing;
- permission to stand, move, or take medically necessary breaks;
- accessible seating or workstations;
- screen magnification, assistive input devices, or other accessibility technology;
- hearing or communication supports;
- access to medication, food, water, or medical equipment;
- physical-access modifications;
- other individualized arrangements that provide comparable access.

This list is not exhaustive. USIOT may approve an alternative method when the requested accommodation cannot be administered exactly as requested because of contest security, the team

format, or technical constraints, provided the alternative offers comparable access when reasonably possible.

4. Extended time in a team competition

USIOT is a collaborative team competition. A competitor who is approved for extended time may choose one of the following methods before beginning the applicable contest. The choice may not be changed after the competitor has viewed the contest problems.

Option A - Individual extended time

The team competes together for the standard contest period. When standard time expires, team members without individual extended-time approval must stop working and may not communicate with the accommodated competitor. The accommodated competitor may then continue independently for the remainder of the approved extended time.

Example: For a three-hour contest, a competitor approved for 1.5x time may work with the team for three hours and then continue alone for up to one hour and 30 minutes, for a maximum total testing time of four hours and 30 minutes.

Option B - Team-equivalent extended time

Instead of continuing alone, the competitor may elect to convert the individual extra-time increment into a proportional extension for the whole team. The calculation treats each position on the standard four-person team as one quarter of the team's contest time.

For one competitor with an approved extended-time multiplier m on a standard team of size n , the team multiplier T is:

$$T = 1 + \frac{m-1}{n}$$

For USIOT, $n = 4$. Therefore:

$$T = 1 + \frac{m-1}{4}$$

If k competitors on the same team have approved extended-time multipliers $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k$, their extra-time increments are added. The general formula is:

$$T = 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k (m_i - 1)}{n}$$

For a standard four-person USIOT team, this becomes:

$$T = 1 + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k (m_i - 1)}{4}$$

The team's total permitted contest duration is then calculated as:

$$D_{\text{team}} = D_{\text{standard}} \times T$$

In these formulas, T is the team-time multiplier; m (or mi) is an individual competitor's approved time multiplier; n is the standard team size used for the calculation; and k is the number of competitors on the team with approved extended time. For USIOT, n remains 4 even when a team competes with fewer than four active competitors.

Approved individual time	Team multiplier	3-hour contest
1.25x	1.0625x	3 h 11 min 15 sec
1.5x	1.125x	3 h 22 min 30 sec
2x	1.25x	3 h 45 min

Example 1: In a three-hour contest, one competitor approved for 1.5x time has an individual extra-time increment of 50%. With $n = 4$, the team multiplier is $T = 1 + (0.5 / 4) = 1.125$. The whole team therefore receives 3 hours $\times$ 1.125 = 3 hours 22 minutes 30 seconds.

Example 2: If two competitors on the same team are each approved for 1.5x time, then $T = 1 + [(0.5 + 0.5) / 4] = 1.25$. For a three-hour contest, the whole team therefore receives 3 hours 45 minutes.

A competitor may choose a different approved method for a later round by notifying USIOT before that round begins.

5. How to request an accommodation

Requests should be submitted by email to director@usiot.net. A parent or guardian may submit the request for a minor.

Suggested subject line: Accommodation Request - [Competitor Name] - [Team Name]

The request should include:

1. the competitor's full name and team name, if already registered;
2. the competition or round for which the accommodation is requested;
3. each accommodation being requested;
4. a brief explanation of how standard contest conditions create a barrier; and
5. supporting documentation.

Competitors should not send complete medical records unless they are specifically relevant. Social Security numbers, insurance information, unrelated medical history, and other unnecessary personal information should be redacted before submission.

6. Supporting documentation

USIOT accepts multiple forms of documentation. There is no single required form. Helpful documentation may include:

- a current IEP, Section 504 plan, or school accommodation/accessibility plan;
- documentation showing accommodations routinely received at school;
- a current accommodation approval from College Board, ACT, another academic competition, or another recognized testing organization;
- a psychoeducational or neuropsychological evaluation;

- documentation from a physician, psychologist, or other qualified professional;
- other records showing the condition, functional impact, and need for the requested accommodation.

When a competitor currently receives substantially the same accommodation from their school, College Board, ACT, or another recognized testing organization, USIOT will ordinarily treat that approval as strong supporting evidence. USIOT may still modify how the accommodation is administered when necessary because of the team format or technical requirements of the competition.

7. Recommended submission deadlines

Accommodation requests should ordinarily be submitted at least 14 calendar days before an online qualification round and at least 30 calendar days before the first day of the USIOT National Finals.

Late requests will still be considered. A request will not be denied solely because it was submitted after the recommended deadline. However, USIOT cannot guarantee that arrangements requiring special equipment, staffing, facilities, or substantial technical changes can be made on short notice.

8. Review and decisions

USIOT may issue one of the following decisions:

- Approved - the requested accommodation is approved as submitted.
- Approved with modification - an accommodation is approved, but the method of administration is adjusted to preserve contest security, the team format, or technical requirements.
- Additional information requested - specific additional information is needed before a decision can be made.
- Denied - the information provided does not establish the need for the requested accommodation, or the requested change would fundamentally alter the competition and no reasonable alternative is available.

Decisions will be provided in writing by email. USIOT will aim to review complete requests promptly, ordinarily within seven calendar days when practicable.

9. Appeals

A competitor or parent/guardian may appeal a denial or modification by replying to the decision email within seven calendar days. The appeal should explain the basis for reconsideration and may include additional documentation. When practicable, an appeal will be reviewed by a person who did not make the initial decision.

10. Confidentiality, score reports, and blind selection

All disability, medical, and accommodation information submitted to USIOT is confidential. It will be shared only with people who need the information to review, approve, administer, or technically implement the accommodation.

Accommodation status will never appear on an individual or team score report, certificate, ranking, public results page, or other academic/competitive record issued by USIOT.

National Finals and Team USA selection will be conducted blind to accommodation status. Members of any committee or panel responsible for selecting National Finals competitors, selecting Team USA, ranking candidates, or making advancement decisions will not be told whether a competitor requested or received an accommodation and will not receive diagnostic or medical documentation.

Selection committees will receive only the competition information they ordinarily need, such as scores, rankings, submitted work, or other authorized selection materials. If a person involved in accommodation administration also serves in a selection role, USIOT will use reasonable administrative separation so that accommodation information is not considered in that person's selection work.

Contest staff who must administer an accommodation may be told only what they need to know to implement it. For example, a proctor may be told that a competitor has 1.5x time or requires a separate room, but will not ordinarily be told the competitor's diagnosis.

Requesting or receiving an accommodation will not affect eligibility, scoring, advancement, awards, National Finals selection, Team USA selection, or any other competitive decision except for the practical administration of the approved accommodation itself.

11. Records and privacy

USIOT will take reasonable steps to protect accommodation records from unnecessary access or disclosure. Medical and disability documentation should be retained only for as long as reasonably necessary to administer the accommodation, resolve any appeal, and maintain appropriate organizational records. USIOT may keep a limited record that an accommodation was approved for future rounds without retaining unnecessary diagnostic detail.

Competitors are not required to disclose a diagnosis to teammates. When a team-wide accommodation affects the contest schedule, teammates may be told the approved schedule or procedure without being told which competitor requested the accommodation or why, unless the competitor chooses to disclose that information.

12. Contest integrity

An accommodation provides access to the competition; it does not permit otherwise prohibited resources or assistance. All ordinary USIOT rules remain in effect, including rules concerning outside assistance, unauthorized communications, generative artificial intelligence, prewritten solutions, and contest security.

USIOT may adjust the way an accommodation is administered when necessary to protect the integrity of the competition, provided that the organization makes a reasonable effort to preserve comparable access.

13. Temporary and emergency accommodations

A competitor who develops a temporary injury, illness, or other accessibility need after the normal deadline may request an emergency accommodation as soon as reasonably possible. Examples may include a broken dominant hand, concussion recovery, acute medical restrictions, or another condition that affects participation under standard contest conditions.

USIOT will determine what arrangements can reasonably be made in the available time.

Emergency requests should be sent to director@usiot.net and clearly identified as time-sensitive.

14. Non-retaliation and equal treatment

A competitor will not be penalized, treated less favorably, or subjected to a higher competitive standard for requesting, appealing, or receiving an accommodation. Accommodation information may not be used as a negative factor in advancement, awards, National Finals selection, Team USA selection, volunteer opportunities, or any other USIOT decision unrelated to administering the accommodation.

15. Questions and contact

Questions, accommodation requests, supporting documentation, and appeals should be sent to:

director@usiot.net

USIOT may update this policy when needed to improve accessibility, contest security, or administration. Any material changes should be published before they take effect for an applicable contest round whenever reasonably practicable.